Hafa Adai!

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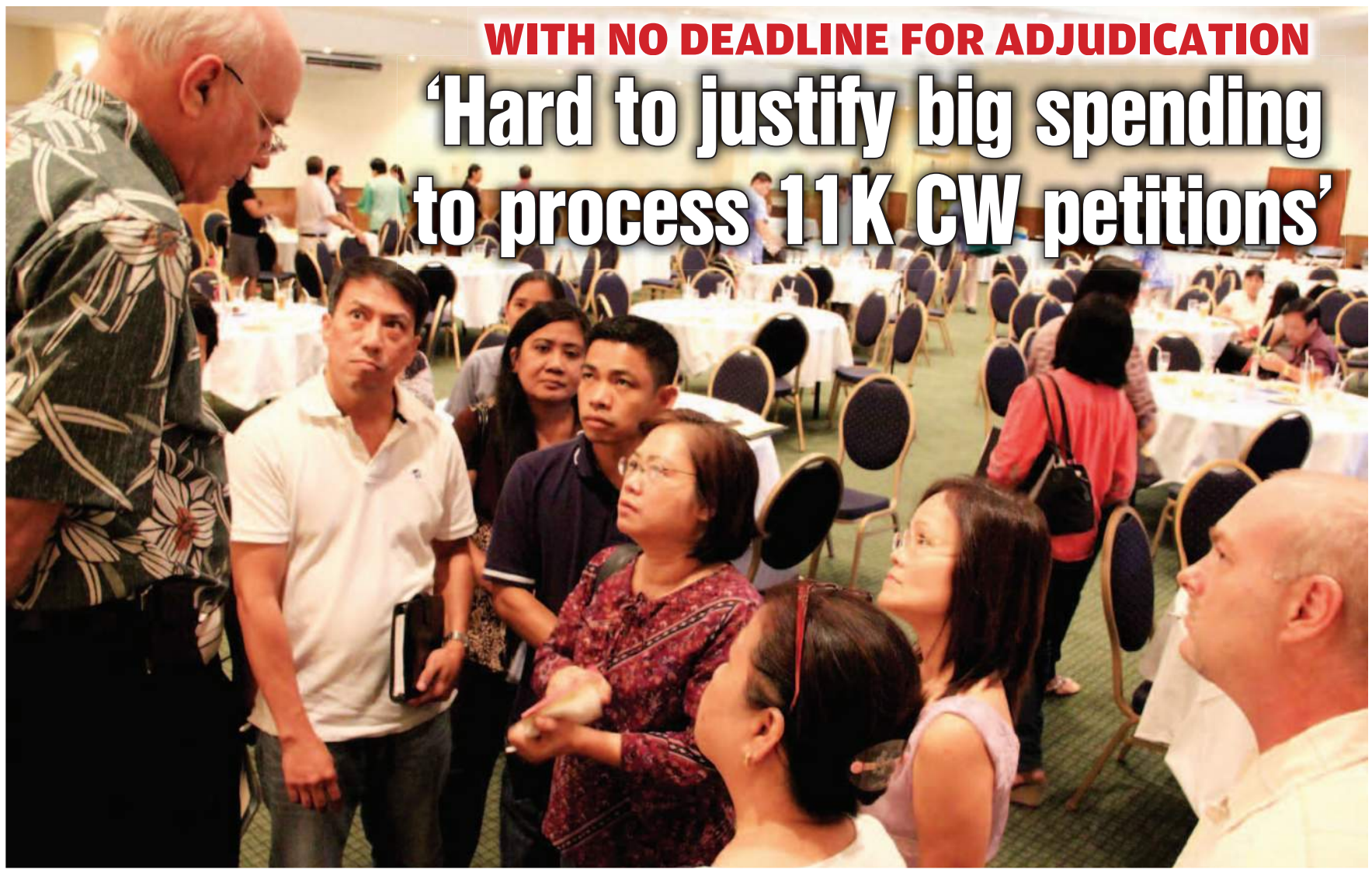
MHS team heads to DC for national design competition. PAGE 5



WITH NO DEADLINE FOR ADJUDICATION

'Hard to justify big spending to process 11K CW petitions'

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu district director David Gulick stays behind to answer some more questions from employees and employers, after providing an update on the Commonwealth-only worker petition processing and engaging in a question-and-answer with the audience during a forum that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu district director David Gulick said yesterday that approval of Commonwealth-only worker petitions for over 11,000 foreign workers has been delayed mainly because of the sheer number of biometrics that need to be collected, and the difficulty of justifying spending more government resources for the CNMI when there is only a self-imposed deadline to process all these. Besides, despite the delay, foreign workers being petitioned are able to continue their legal stay in the CNMI.

For weeks, employers and foreign workers have been asking why it has taken this long to process CW petitions.

The CNMI, however, would see the rate of CW petition approvals ramp up in the next few

See CW on Page 4

CHC under state of emergency—again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency—again—for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday, allowing for both the reprogramming of funds to prevent a hospital shutdown and for the corporation to continue to contract with International Consulting Services LLC for medical billing services without going through standard procurement rules.

The governor signed the emergency declaration at the urging of CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta since early this week.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham earlier issued a cease-and-desist notice to Babauta as the ICS contract "did not meet procurement regulations."

With the governor's state of emergency

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RELATED NEWS

➤ Hospital collection at $5.065M in first six months. PAGE 3

Hawaii judge hears Fund's Chapter 11 case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris held yesterday the first hearing on the motions filed by the NMI Retirement Fund related to its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

» Next hearing on June 1

Faris, who is in Honolulu, held the hearing via video teleconference at the U.S. District Court for the NMI. It lasted less than two hours.

The next hearing is on June 1, 2012, at 9:30am Saipan time.

As this developed, the two unnamed retirees represented by attorney Bruce Jorgensen filed yesterday a motion to dismiss the Fund's bankruptcy petition.

Faris deferred his ruling until the next hearing on the Fund's motion to allow the Fund to pay for two months the full amount of benefits owed beneficiaries. He noted that other arrangements have already been made to continue payments for 60 days.

Faris granted the Fund's motion for an order

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of optimism that you will get your rebate for the 2011 tax year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Should students and teachers ever be friends on Facebook?

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LIFE & STYLE

"American Idol" viewers weren't caught in a romance with Colton Dixon.

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Local

Chamorro soldiers killed in Vietnam War honored in DC rites

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Despite a steady rain, over 50 individuals gathered in the nation's capital last March 24 to take part in the first commemoration ceremony honoring the 70 servicemen from the CNMI and Guam who died in the Vietnam War.

Under the direction of the National Organization of Chamorro Veterans in America or NOCVA, in coordination with the National Park Service, 15 Chamorro veterans worked together to initiate, plan, and conduct the historic event on behalf of the Chamorro people in the Marianas.

Last month's ceremony opened with remarks from NOCVA national coordinator Celestin "Cel" Aguigui, who served in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft maintenance officer for the 13th Tactical Fighter Squadron during the war.

Another national coordinator, Lorenzo "Larry" Cruz, recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Cruz served in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years and retired as chief master sergeant.

The 70 names were recited at the event, followed by a wreath-laying led by national coordinator Frank Blas, a retired U.S. Army sergeant first class who served two tours in the war. He was wounded in action during his first tour in May 1968 and was awarded the Purple Heart, among others.

The hourlong event concluded with the final sounding of taps.

NOCVA is a newly established, Washington, D.C.-based national advocacy organization that aims to recognize and honor the service of Chamorro veterans, serve as their voice at national-level veterans' events, and undertake initiatives to defend, protect, and promote their rights.

The group decided to have the ceremony by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall as its first initiative owing to the great distance of family and friends in the Marianas and throughout the country who cannot travel to see their loved ones' names inscribed on the wall.

Despite its small population, the CNMI and Guam had the highest casualty rates during the Vietnam War compared to other states and territories. These fallen heroes have allowed today's people "to enjoy the freedom of living in the greatest country in the world."

During the Vietnam War, those who enlisted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were recorded with Guam as their home-state-of-record since the military recruiting station was located in Guam.

"As U.S. citizens proud of their Chamorro ancestry and heritage, Chamorro veterans have no greater honor than to ensure that the sacrifices of their Chamorro brothers will never be forgotten," said NOCVA.

The group is working on a videotape/DVD copy of the ceremony, which can be made available to interested parties.

NOCVA acknowledged all who helped make the event possible, particularly Chamorro veterans from North Carolina and Florida, the local Washington metro-area Chamorro community under the direction of the Guam Society of America, and the National Park Service.

For more information about NOCVA and to see more photos at the event, visit their Facebook page or their website at www.nocva.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mariano Cruz recites the names of the fallen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Frank Blas, Leonard Ranches, and Jose Meno.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A wreath for the fallen heroes from Guam and CNMI is placed against the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The ceremony concludes as flags pass by.

Saipan student named Boise Rotary scholar

» Awarded full scholarship to Oregon University

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Boise recently selected Thomas Jude Duenas Torres as one of its Century Scholars in recognition of his exceptional academic performances and for being among Boise's Top 100 graduates from the Class of 2012.

Torres

Known to his family and friends as "TJ," the student is a senior at Borah High School in Boise, Idaho and will be graduating on June 2. He was awarded a full scholarship to attend Oregon State University to major in pharmacy. Torres is a member of the National Honor Society and is involved in many community projects.

Thomas is the son of Ralph Mendiola-Torres and Ruby Duenas-Torres, who moved from Saipan to Boise, Idaho in 2007. He is the oldest among five siblings, which includes Tinisha, Ralph III, Casilda, and Jerraine. He attended San Antonio Elementary School and Hopwood Jr. High School on Saipan.

Saipan Tribune learned that Torres not only excels academically but is also an expert in computer repair.

According to his father, he was amazed when they went to Las Vegas to visit the father's brother when his son fixed all of his uncle's computers.

The elder Torres is a former Department of Public Safety officer on Saipan. The father said his son's achievement is a success story that brings pride to their families. He is a role model that inspires other students to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals.

In a statement, Thomas Jude Duenas Torres said he owes his success to his family. "I owe my success to my father and mother for their love and support and for encouraging me to aim for the star and to do my best."

He also gave credit to his teacher, Barbara Beautrow, for challenging and pushing him to work hard and think in different ways. "She introduced skills that I still use today, including time management and voicing my opinion," Thomas said.

Thomas' grandfather, Tom Duenas Sr., said he is proud of his grandson and have high hopes for the young achiever. "I am proud of my grandson. I have high hopes for TJ and wish him luck in his college career," he said, and credited Thomas' parents for their son's achievements. Relatives Mike Aldan and Lorraine Pangelinan also congratulated the young family members on his latest achievement.

Hospital collection at $5.065M in first six months

» ICS contract seen to boost revenue by up to $2.8M per month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Since the formal takeover of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in October last year, only a little over $5 million was generated from the three health centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Based on unaudited corporation records obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the corporation's overall collection totaled $5.065 million from October 2011 to March 2012, the bulk of which came from the Commonwealth Health Center at $4.8 million. The Tinian Health Center brought in $162,374.27, while the Rota Health Center collected $102,707.06.

According to Alvaro Santos, chief financial officer, the corporation averaged $844,000 in monthly collections from the three health centers. Based on records, Rota and Tinian averaged only $10,000 each month.

The "low" revenue figures, Santos said, are due to the low rates being charged by the hospital for services. He attributed the months with higher collections to reimbursements received by the corporation from both Medicare and Medicaid.

CORPORATION COLLECTIONS

CHC:	$4,800,438.82
October 2011:	$623,344.15
November 2011:	$1,252,216.19
December 2011:	$517.745.48
January 2012:	$625,944.04
February 2012:	$1,081,299.81
March 2012:	$699,839.15
TINIAN HEALTH CENTER:	$162,374.27
October 2011:	$10,269.32
November 2011:	$28,370.76
December 2011:	$29,128.94
January 2012:	$19,567.83
February:	$23,516.74
March:	$51,520.68
FOR ROTA HEALTH CENTER:	$102,707.06
October 2011:	$9,928.40
November 2011:	$7,801.21
December 2011:	$56,216.05
January 2012:	$12,385.39
February 2012:	$8,204.37
March 2012:	$8,171.64

Source: Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Increased collection

Corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta and Santos disclosed in Thursday's news briefing that hospital revenues are seen to significantly grow beginning next fiscal year as a result of the "revenue cycle management" being created by the corporation. This important function, they said, is tied with the scope of work expected to be performed by International Consulting Services. ICS, they said, will fix the broken financial system, updating all hospital charges including supplies.

Babauta revealed that 55 percent of hospital services are not being charged at present while 45 percent of all current services are undercharged. Hospital supplies are not also being given free. It also lacks effective coding services that are vital to generating revenues.

Once a new charge master machine is installed, Babauta said that revenue and collection are expected to go up to $2.8 million a month, hopefully by the start of fiscal year 2013 in October. He emphasized that "this is all tied in with the ICS contract."

Compared to Guam Marianas Collection Agency, he said that ICS has a greater scope of work and billing and collection services are just part of its multiple tasks. GMCA, he said, will work on "old" debts from way back until March 2011 while ICS—for the same service—will concentrate on billings from April 2011 forward.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The four students from Marianas Baptist Academy who won in the recent regional NJFL competition pose with their teacher-coach George Gomez. Scarlet Chen, Yuuki Nishida, Robert Solis, and Shizuka Takayama are members of CNMI Team that will take part in the upcoming NJFL national competition in Indianapolis, Indiana in June this year.

Four MBA students top regional NJFL

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Four students from Marianas Baptist Academy will represent CNMI in the nationwide competition of the National Junior Forensic League later this year in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Scarlet Chen won the gold medal in the recent regional contest for the Lincoln Douglas Debate. Yuuki Nishida emerged first place in humorous interpretation, Robert Solis won first for extemporaneous speech, and Shizuka Takayama for impromptu speaking.

There were close to 100 junior high school students who joined the rigorous elimination rounds.

The elimination and semifinal rounds were held on April 13 at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, while the final rounds took place on April 14 at Tanapag Elementary School.

Takayama said all their hard work paid off and is thankful for the guidance and support of team coach George Gomez.

"I am so thankful that my hardships paid off. I would like to thank my parents, my coach, and my fellow students for their support. But most especially to God," Takayama said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Shizuka made it to the finals for impromptu last year but fell short, finishing third.

Chen said that she didn't expect to win first place, but she is very happy and joyful about it. "I thank God for my answered prayer request and all the people who supported me. I couldn't have done this without them," she said.

Chen won first in the Lincoln Douglas Debate with the topic "Resolved: It is morally permissible for victims to use deadly force as a deliberate response to repeated domestic violence." She also made it to the finals in impromptu speaking with Takayama.

Nishida, a seventh grader who won for humorous interpretation, said the win was unexpected but is likewise appreciative of all the support of her family and colleagues.

Other MBA students who made it to the finals during the regional NJFL competition were Fritz Trinidad, Emily An, Justina Lee, Myoung Ki Oh. Other student-participants were John Arugay, Delaney Chua, Daniel Han, David Kim, Jose Castro, Zamuel Alfred, Won Jun Kim, Debbie Sui, and Alex Bae.

The NJFL competition is an event held annually for all public and private schools in the CNMI to encourage and motivate junior high school students to participate and become proficient in the forensic arts that include debate, public speaking, and dramatic interpretations.

Suspected 'ice' supplier falls

Drug Enforcement Task Force agents arrested Thursday an alleged supplier of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Han Ju Yang, a 41-year-old Chinese national also known as Sister, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for her initial court hearing.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $30,000 cash bail for Yang's temporary release.

Task Force detective Patrick P. Sablan stated in his report that two detectives interviewed Wednesday a "cooperating defendant" who revealed that his/her "ice" supplier is Sister.

Sablan said the "cooperating defendant" claimed that Sister, later identified as Yang, would deal "ice" out of her apartment along Martinez Road in As Lito.

That same day, Task Force members conducted a buy-walk operation using the "confidential defendant." Sablan said the "cooperating defendant" managed to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Yang at her apartment.

Sablan said after 45 minutes from the operation, the Task Force members, using the same "cooperating defendant" managed to buy $60 more worth of "ice" from Yang at the same apartment.

On Thursday, Task Force members arrested Yang and executed a search warrant at her apartment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 26, 2012 beginning at 1:00pm at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
March 30, 2012
April 12, 2012 – Special Meeting

II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Report
  - o February Flash Report
- Loan Administrator
- Board Consultant Report
  - o Financial Report

IV LEGAL COUNSEL
V OLD BUSINESS
- Alternative Investment (deferred)
- CHC – financial assistance
- FY 2012 Audit – draft

VI COMMUNICATIONS
VII NEW BUSINESS
- IPS- Asset Allocation – draft

VIII MISCELLANEOUS
- MPLT properties

IX ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
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Suspect in robbery of Japanese tourist gets a two-year sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has imposed a two-year prison term on Oscar Porras for his role in the robbery of a female Japanese tourist and a beer theft case.

Govendo on Wednesday sentenced Oscar Porras Jr. to a total of five years in prison, all suspended except for two years, with credit for time served. The 33-year-old Porras will not be eligible for parole.

Porras pleaded guilty to theft in the first case and accessory after the fact to robbery, receiving stolen property, and assault and battery in the second case as part of a plea deal.

After completing his sentence, Porras will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

The judge held Porras jointly responsible with any co-conspirator for paying the $350-plus medical costs of the victim, Miki Takamatsu, and $29.99 to the Grand Market.

Govendo ordered Porras to pay at least $200 to Takamatsu within 30 days and to write two letters of apology, one to Takamatsu and one to Grand Market. He was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service and pay court costs and fees.

Last week, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected a plea agreement entered by Porras and his co-defendant Gustavo Meme Ybanez in the robbery case, finding it to be "extremely lenient."

The plea deal proposed an eight-year combined prison sentence, on four guilty counts to run concurrently. The total jail sentence is five years but three years are suspended.

Camacho said although there is an appearance of serious jail time, Porras would actually be facing just two years in prison, with credit for time served and no restriction on parole.

Camacho said under the proposed deal, because Porras already served six months in jail, he may be eligible for parole in as little as two months.

With respect to Ybanez, the plea agreement proposed a five-year prison term, all suspended except for two years, with credit for time served.

The Office of the Attorney General and Porras and his counsel forged another plea agreement that imposed no parole, among other things. Govendo presided over the change of plea hearing on Wednesday as Camacho was off-island on official business.

According to the factual basis of the agreement, on Sept. 29, 2011, Porras walked out of Grand Market in Puerto Rico with a case of beer without paying for it.

On Nov. 16, 2011, Ybanez snatched Takamatsu's purse and ran to a vehicle that Porras was driving. The tourist chased the car and grabbed the door. Porras sped off and Takamatsu was dragged several meters, injuring her arm. She was treated for injuries at the Commonwealth Health Center.

ERRATUM

In the article "DEQ hosts 1st Environmental Film Fest and Zero Waste Picnic" published on Friday, April 20, it was indicated that the event was "today" and "tomorrow," referring to April 20 to 21. It should have been April 27 to 28. Our apologies.

EMERGENCY

From Page 1

declaration, CHC will be able to either come up with a new sole-source emergency contract with ICS or correct the deficiencies in the existing contract to satisfy the AG's concerns, among other things.

"A state of emergency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is declared due to the imminent threat of the disruption of critical medical services in the Commonwealth and the danger that such a condition poses to the public because of the great increase in otherwise preventable deaths that would result," Fitial said in his two-page Executive Order 2012-03 signed at 12:30pm yesterday.

The last time the governor issued an emergency declaration for CHC was on March 6, 2012, that expired early this month.

That previous EO allowed CHC to enter into a loan deal with the Marianas Public Land Trust, so that doctors, nurses, other employees, hospital vendors, and other outstanding obligations including power and water services will be paid, among other things.

Fitial's previous EO came at a time when the House and Senate were not seeing eye-to-eye on a bill that would authorize almost the same loan agreement between CHC and MPLT.

Fitial's new emergency declaration for CHC allows:

1. Suspension of all statutory or regulatory provisions as required;

2. The reprogramming of funds as necessary to meet this emergency.

As of yesterday, there was no telling whether Fitial would reprogram any funds to give to CHC so that the hospital won't need to shut down some units.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the last time the governor placed CHC under a state of emergency, he did not reprogram any funds either.

Manglona said the Senate leadership is poised to approve a "compromise" bill that would authorize MPLT to provide a line of credit for CHC, even as the governor had already placed CHC under a state of emergency.

"I don't think the governor declared a state of emergency to pre-empt what the conference committee has been doing," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), a member of the six-member conference committee on House Bill 17-278, said they are going back to the original amount of $11.58 million, but this just incorporates the $3 million already provided to CHC as well as a $1.58 million loan for its electronic system.

In essence, the compromise bill will give the corporation an additional $7 million line of credit.

Basa, author of HB 17-278, said the conference committee completed its report on Friday morning and the three House members have already signed off on it.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the three Senate members of the conference committee, including herself, are still reviewing the report and have yet to sign off on it as of yesterday afternoon.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) called for a session on Monday, during which the compromise version of HB 17-278 is expected to be acted on.

The Senate president also called for a session on Tuesday, mainly to act on HB 17-278 that will come out of the conference committee that is co-chaired by Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan). Both are chairs of their respective committees on health.

Preventing financial abuse

Fitial, in his new EO, said the emergency declaration incorporates the March 19, 2012, memorandum of understanding between CHC and the Department of Finance, Office of Management and Budget, and Office of the Attorney General" to ensure that the suspension of regulatory provisions "does not lead to financial abuse."

"In addition, any financial reports submitted by the CHC pursuant to the MOU must be submitted with a certification of the person submitting them stating that the reports are full and accurate under penalty or perjury," the governor said.

CHC provides the bulk of healthcare in the CNMI, and all emergency medical services.

Fitial said disruption of CHC's medical services poses a direct threat to the health and safety of CNMI people.

The corporation is also currently in arrears with its payments to vendors and salary payments to employees.

"CHC, due to financial constraints, will have to shut down major functions of the hospital, thus presenting an imminent threat to the public's health and welfare. …CHC requires an infusion of funds to continue to provide medical services necessary for the health, welfare and safety of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands," Fitial added.

MPLT and CHC agreed to a $3 million loan to provide needed funds to CHC so that it may continue to provide critical medical services.

Fitial said in order to refinance the repayment of an earlier loan from MPLT, and for CHC to ensure its future financial security, it is necessary for an emergency declaration to be made that will allow CHC to contract with a provider of medical billing services without CHC going through the standard procurement regulations, referring to the Idaho-based ICS.

CW

From Page 1

weeks, Gulick said.

Gulick presented an update on the ongoing CW processing to members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday.

That was after making a similar presentation for the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management at Pacific Islands Club.

Gulick also spent a considerable amount of time answering questions from employers and employees waiting for the results of CW petitions.

The delay has been because of the need to collect biometrics for over 11,000 with only a limited staff at the Application Support Center in Garapan.

"There was no deadline on adjudicating the petitions except what we had self-imposed," he said.

USCIS had a self-imposed deadline of Jan. 31, 2012, to adjudicate CW petitions, but this turned out to be an ambitious deadline.

Despite the delays in the processing of CW petitions, the beneficiaries of these CWs could still continue to work and reside in the CNMI while the petitions are being adjudicated.

"It is hard to justify spending that much government money, resources, when there's no penalty to the delay in the sense that the employee continues to be allowed to work and live in the United States," Gulick told *Saipan Tribune.*

He also engaged in a question-and-answer with employers and employees.

If after 45 days from a biometrics schedule and the employers do not hear from or receive any notice from USCIS, these employers are asked to contact USCIS by sending an email to CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov.

Gulick said that, as of April 17, 2012, USCIS has received 5,659 I-129 CW petitions for 11,695 beneficiaries. These CW petitions were from 1,782 different employers in the CNMI.

"So far, 1,045 petitions were approved consisting of 1,576 beneficiaries," Gulick said. This is about 13 percent of the total beneficiaries petitioned so far.

Gulick said 16 petitions were denied, covering 18 beneficiaries.

USCIS wrapped up its biometrics appointments on Rota last week, and is currently doing the same on Tinian.

USCIS also received 1,441 requests from people who would like to obtain parole status, Gulick said. Of those, 135 were permanent residents-type, including for student parole and H1 workers. A total of 761 are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

Some employers and workers interviewed after the forum said most of their questions were answered.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that Gulick's presentation was based on the questions presented beforehand.

"I feel that he did a good job and he adequately addressed those questions. There will always be questions during the process, and that is the nature of the beast—immigration," he said.

Eric Plinske, Staywell Health Insurance Saipan branch manager and a Chamber member, said it's good to see that Gulick even stayed behind after the forum to answer further questions from employers and employees. The luncheon forum began at 11:30am and didn't wrap up until about 1:30pm but Gulick answered questions until about 2pm.

FUND

From Page 1

extending time to file its schedules of assets and liabilities, schedule of executory contracts and unexpired leases, and statement of financial affairs.

The judge, however, denied the motion for an entry of order authorizing protections and prohibiting unauthorized actions against the Fund's management and its board. Faris said he is denying the motion but without diminishing the scope and power of the automatic stay.

Faris cautioned that automatic stay as a result of the filing of the bankruptcy petition is a very serious matter. "Violation of automatic stay is very serious," he pointed out.

As with other cases under other chapters of the Bankruptcy Code, a stay of creditor actions against the Chapter 11 debtor (in this case, the Fund) automatically goes into effect when the bankruptcy petition is filed.

Faris temporarily granted, subject to the next hearing, the motion for an entry of an order authorizing the Fund to maintain existing bank accounts and continue the use of its cash management system; continue the use of existing forms; open new debtor-in-possession accounts, and forego bond requirements for investments.

The judge also granted the motion to allow the Fund to pay the wages, salaries and other compensation of its employees; reimburse employee business expenses; pay taxes and other withholdings; and contribute to employee health and other benefit obligations and other insurance premiums.

Attorneys Braddock Huesman and Boston lawyers Steven Pohl and Jeremy Coffey appeared with Fund administrator Richard Villagomez at the hearing.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff appeared as local counsel for two unnamed creditors/ retirees. Attorneys Margery Bronster and Robert Hatch appeared on behalf of the unnamed retirees via video teleconference from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Hawaii. Jorgensen did not appear in court.

Also appearing via teleconference from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Hawaii were U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching and Trustee attorney Terri Didion.

About 20 people, mostly retirees, watched the proceedings in court.

Coffey first explained to the court about the Fund, then provided a background of the case as well as its financial situation. Coffey and Pohl argued the Fund's motions.

Coffey said that many Fund members are frightened with the filing of the Chapter 11 petition as they think it means shutting off their benefits.

"This is an emotionally charged issue," Coffey said. He then picked up a copy of the *Saipan Tribune* and showed the judge the front page, which carried the headline "Worst time in CNMI history."

Coffey reiterated the Fund's earlier statement that the intent of filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy is to restructure the Fund's obligation and not to shut down.

Coffey said it is the Fund's intention is to involve the beneficiaries in the discussions. He cited the public meetings they already conducted and are about to hold in the CNMI.

"This is not the end of the road, but the beginning of the process," he said, adding that they need the creditors' support for input.

On the motion for continued payment of certain beneficiaries, Trustee Ching and unnamed retirees' counsel Bronster addressed the court.

Ching said the U.S. Trustee opposes this motion. He noted that the Fund has already apparently made provision for payments of benefits outside of bankruptcy for a period of two months. Given this arrangement, Ching said they believe that is not necessary for the court to grant that relief right now.

Ching also expressed concern that creditors within the same class are not treated equally with respect to payments. He said the Fund should not be allowed to use estate funds to pay some general unsecured creditors but not others, particularly as a first day motion.

Bronster informed the court about their motion to dismiss the bankruptcy petition. In their pleadings, Bronster said the Fund is a "governmental unit" and an agency of the Commonwealth" and therefore is not a "person" eligible to file such a petition under the Bankruptcy Code.

Consequently, Bronster said, the Fund's Chapter 11 petition must be dismissed.

Fitial says he will sign Fund contribution withdrawal bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said Thursday that he will sign into law a bill allowing non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions regardless of years of service and without penalty or the need for them to quit their job.

Fitial received the compromise version of Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-226 on Tuesday, shortly before the Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

But some lawmakers and retirees said Thursday that even if the governor signs the bill today or in the next few days, active members may not withdraw their contributions because of the restructuring.

The bill said the non-retired members can apply for and make the withdrawals within 180 days of signing into law.

That 180 days is just about the time Fund officials expect the pension agency to be under restructuring and giving out contributions to active members won't be allowed during this time.

Under the bill, the rest of the employee contributions to the Fund will be rolled over to the defined contribution plan.

2nd round of broadband mapping town hall meetings set next week

One Economy, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, BroadMap LLC, and the New America Foundation, will be conducting a second round of village/town hall meetings to present and discuss the recent completion of the CNMI Broadband Mapping Community Survey.

Residents of CNMI reported significant barriers to broadband adoption, especially cost and availability. According to residents, there are significant areas that are completely unserved by broadband, notably on the islands of Tinian and Rota; however, residents of Tinian and Rota place a high importance on having the Internet at home. As a result, there are residents who would like to subscribe to the Internet that are not being served.

One Economy wants to share these findings with community members and receive feedback on the results. "We would really like residents' help to fill in the gaps in the data, because we know that a survey and numbers are only going to tell part of the story," said Daniel Calarco, director of International Programs for One Economy.

Thomas J. Camacho, CNMI Community Liaison for One Economy, will be conducting the meeting and presenting the Community Survey findings.

The meeting dates, time and location are as follows:

- Monday, April 23, 2012, 6pm at the cafeteria, Dandan Elementary School, Dandan Village
- Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 6pm at the cafeteria, Kagman High School, Kagman III Village
- Thursday, April 26, 2012, 6pm at the cafeteria, GTC Elementary School, San Roque Village
- Friday, April 27, 2012, 6pm at the Cafeteria, Tanapag Elementary School, Tanapag Village

The public's attendance and participation in this community engagement will help map Internet access, usage and attitudes. One lucky attendee will have a chance to win a Cisco Flip Video Ultra HD. Refreshments will be served.

The program is part of an initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to develop and maintain a comprehensive, interactive, and searchable nationwide map of existing broadband capability and availability throughout each state or territory. In addition, One Economy aims to improve broadband adoption in CNMI by better understanding the barriers to adopting broadband that residents may face. ***(One Economy)***

MHS team heads to DC for national design competition

The CNMI Aeronautical Dolphins, state champions of the Real World Design Challenge Pacific, left Saipan for Washington, D.C. on April 19 to compete at the RWDC national competition. The team won a full expense-paid trip by RWDC when they won over Guam, American Samoa, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia in February.

The five MHS students say goodbye to their parents early Thursday morning at the Saipan International Airport. All the parents wished their children well and made known that they are very proud of them for getting this far.

During their seven-hour layover in Japan, the CNMI Aeronautical Dolphins were still hard at work rehearsing their PowerPoint presentation on the Green Dolphinator, an energy-efficient light sport aircraft. The team spent over a hundred hours on their airplane design.

Activities in Washington, D.C. include monument tours, full-day competitions and presentations, a White House tour, and dinner. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the photos are Jill Ann Arada, Jonavelle Cuerdo, Marjorie Ann Cuerdo, Eufemio Ferio, Clariza Mae Magat, John Raulerson (Team Coach), and RWDC CNMI state coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang.

Presentations on new invasive species in Guam

Western Pacific Tropical Research Center entomologists Aubrey Moore and Ross Miller will offer updates on two of the most recent insect invasives to enter Guam: coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants.

Moore's presentation: "CRB is the BTS of the 21st Century" will give a history of the arrival of the beetles on Guam in 2007 and the tactics used to control the population with a discussion on the success and failures for each tactic.

Miller's presentation: "Little Fire Ants vs. BTS, CRB, and Everything Else" will address the devastating effects of the little fire ant on biodiversity of Guam. "Any invasive species we find on Guam poses a threat to our neighboring islands due to our frequent air and sea connection," said Miller.

Hosted by the Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group, the spring 2012 Brown Tree Snake Scientific Presentations are open to the public and will cover BTS research, control and interdiction efforts as well as newly emerging invasive species issues in the Marianas. Speakers from the Guam Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Geological Survey will also be presenting.

The proceedings will take place on Wednesday, April 25, 2012, from 8am to 5pm, at the Navy MWR's Top O' the Mar on Nimitz Hill.

For a pdf of presentation titles and abstracts, logon to: http://www.wptrc.org/section.asp?secID=10. ***(PR)***

Interior supports Guam Department of Corrections

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, has authorized $3.5 million in Compact Impact grant funding to support the Guam Department of Corrections' efforts to offset the cost of providing inmate housing to Compact of Free Association migrants.

"I am pleased to be assisting the Department of Corrections in supplementing their existing budget. The Calvo Administration, as well as members of the Guam Legislature, have raised the challenges confronting the department, given the facility's population of Freely Associated State citizens. This issue was also reiterated by [Delegate] Bordallo during the Pacific Island Leaders Addressing Compact Impact meeting held last month, in Guam. I am grateful to Governor Calvo for working with me to prioritize available and limited Compact Impact funding to address the operational needs of Government of Guam departments most affected by migration from the Freely Associated States. The PILACI meeting helped to underscore the difficulties of Guam and Hawaii to accommodate migrating FAS citizens and the joint efforts which need to be undertaken by FAS leaders, the affected U.S. jurisdictions, and the U.S. government to address this regional concern," said Babauta.

Funding will assist the DOC in defraying costs of providing inmate housing, medical treatment, daily meals and transportation to and from medical appointments and court hearings. ***(DOI)***

NEW HOMEPORT U.S. NAVY/COREY HENSLEY

The Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine USS *Chicago* arrives at her new homeport, on Naval Base Guam, after completing a change of homeport from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. *Chicago* is assigned to Submarine Squadron 15, the Navy's only forward deployed submarine squadron, providing maintenance, training, logistics and administrative support for the submarines assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Cigarette labels should tell the truth

When Congress gave the Food and Drug Administration regulatory power over tobacco products, the industry actually promoted the plan. But that support seems to have lasted about as long as a typical smoke break.

As soon as the FDA banned one of the cigarette makers' favorite marketing ploys—the sale of cigarettes with healthy-sounding names like light, mild, and low-tar—the companies cried foul. They then promptly took other steps to market supposedly less-harmful cigarettes to smokers, even while admitting as an industry that "there is no safe cigarette."

Now the tobacco companies are in a pitched legal battle with the FDA over the sensible plan that takes effect this fall to require graphic warnings on half of every cigarette pack, front and back, as a reminder of the deadly consequences of tobacco use.

A panel of federal judges in Ohio upheld the warnings on labels in a ruling last month, but a federal judge in Washington in late February blocked the FDA from implementing the warnings on grounds that they violated cigarette makers' free-speech rights. Now the issue will be decided by a federal appeals court, which heard arguments last week.

The planned images of diseased lungs, toe-tagged bodies, terminally ill cancer patients, and the like would merely kick it up a notch in a legitimate public-health campaign to save some of the 440,000 lives lost to tobacco-related illness each year. Big Tobacco's opposition is the best sign the labels just might work.

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Secret Service's Colombian road trip and hangover

The 11 Secret Service agents who were part of the president's advance security detail were hired, trained, armed and paid well for their judgment. They failed miserably. Fire them.

Take a couple of their supervisors off the payroll as well. The numbers involved in this scandal suggest a failure of command and control in a go-along, get-along culture without any professional oversight.

On one level, this is a frat party run amok, with agents reportedly trying to impress their female companions with their status as protectors of the president. They were so damn special.

In fact, the behavior is closer to the Army's Abu Ghraib debacle or the Navy's Tailhook scandal, where no rules applied and no one was apparently in charge. The heady arrogance exposed is as intoxicating for participants as the vast quantities of alcohol consumed.

None of us would be paying attention if this were a bunch of party-hearty federal employees from the Commerce Department, but the assignment was to secure an unknown environment and help protect the president, Cabinet officials and senior administrators—our leaders representing our interests.

Apparently, an agency culture that left the agents confident enough to hire hookers did not feel particularly vulnerable to exposure, blackmail or extortion.

Are they intelligent, brave and well-trained? No doubt. Can their judgment be trusted? Apparently not.

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Piecing together a Romney VP strategy

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

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Even before a shortage of funds and diminishing prospects forced Rick Santorum to end his presidential candidacy, the inevitable speculation had begun about presumptive GOP nominee Mitt Romney's running mate.

It will rage until Romney names his choice.

Six decades of watching this process has convinced me that almost all such speculation is uninformed. Still, it is possible to discuss the factors that could affect the choice and how some potential candidates fit them.

Here are some:

Deemed qualified to be president: Selection of an experienced public official like Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio or Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin would satisfy the instant public assessment by pundits of all ideological stripes. While voters have traditionally liked non-Washington presidential candidates such as Romney, the fact is, if elected, he'll need help from someone who knows how to get things done in Washington.

That was the main motivation for selecting the last two vice presidents, Dick Cheney and Joe Biden. It's a luxury that only a candidate with an even or better chance of winning can enjoy.

More problematic political prospects will prompt a nominee to gamble on a less experienced candidate, such as governors Susanna Martinez of New Mexico or Brian Sandoval of Nevada or Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. But the selection of a relative unknown risks the kind of intensive media vetting that Sarah Palin received in 2008.

Helpful politically: All statistical evidence since Lyndon Johnson helped elect John F. Kennedy 52 years ago indicates that running mates rarely provide measurable help to the ticket. If they do, it comes in their home states, a factor that might help candidates from key battlegrounds such as Ohio's Portman, Wisconsin's Ryan, Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and the less experienced Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

A Hispanic or a woman might help narrow the Democrats' advantage with those groups. But Hispanic politics is especially tricky; a Cuban-American like Rubio might help more in Florida than among the Mexican-Americans of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain states.

No skeletons in the closet: Since George McGovern's minimally vetted vice presidential choice, Sen. Thomas Eagleton, was forced to resign from the ticket in 1972 because he concealed his electric shock treatment for depression, candidates have conducted more intensive pre-selection screenings of their likely choices. One reason for John McCain's Sarah Palin fiasco in 2008 was the rushed, inadequate vetting job.

Longtime Romney confidante Beth Myers' job in supervising his vice presidential search is to make sure that does not happen.

Someone who has run for president, like former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty or 2008 hopeful Mike Huckabee, has the advantage of having been fully vetted, both by other campaigns and the media.

Able to debate. Vice-presidential nominees are generally only visible in three campaign instances: giving their acceptance speeches, participating in the vice-presidential debate or creating unwanted controversy. Just as the plethora of GOP debates has helped Romney prepare for his encounters with President Barack Obama, prior debating experience in past elections will help his prospective running mate.

Picking someone with debating experience in Congress doesn't always work out. Sen. Joe Lieberman performed unexpectedly poorly against Cheney as Al Gore's running mate. Sen. Dan Quayle looked overmatched against veteran Texas Democratic Sen. Lloyd Bentsen. And Sen. Bob Dole shot himself in the foot with his angry 1976 denunciation of "Democrat wars" in his debate with Sen. Walter Mondale. However, none of these instances had much impact on the result.

The vice-presidential selection will also tell something about the presidential nominee and his priorities. In Romney's case, it may either reinforce his decision to run as an all-out conservative or show he is seeking to broaden his appeal. It may also turn a hitherto obscure office holder into one of the nation's most prominent political figures, at least until November.

But that person's long-term prospects depend on whether the ticket wins. While four of the 13 post-World War II vice presidents became president, and three more became presidential nominees, just one of the 15 defeated vice presidential nominees ever won a later presidential nomination—Bob Dole. And he lost in the general election.

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America avoids Europe's austerity nightmare

By THOMAS F. SCHALLER
The Baltimore Sun

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As the global economic crisis grinds into its fourth year, we now have a clearer sense of which countries responded appropriately to the crisis and those that perpetuated or aggravated their situation. That discussion must begin with a comparison of the differing approaches taken by European governments and the United States.

Let's start in Greece, where I recently gave some lectures about the American presidential elections. Once the center of one of the world's most influential empires, Athens now finds itself at the center of the European crisis.

Borrowing on the strength of the euro, Greeks during the past decade took on Olympic-level personal debt. When the credit crisis—fueled by the global mortgage-backed security meltdown—reached the Aegean, the Greek economy tanked. Early, false government estimates about the size of the Greek national debt temporarily but misleadingly calmed European and global markets; when the true scope of Greek indebtedness was eventually revealed, its economy collapsed even further.

Now, few if any creditors will lend to Greek businesses or citizens, and those willing to take that risk expect unaffordable interest rates. Half of Greeks under age 30 are unemployed. In advance of the country's upcoming national elections, Greece's politics may be more unstable than at any time since the nation's modern founding in the 1830s. Greece's economic problems infected the rest of the European Union. Though not as bad as Greece, Spain and Italy are facing similar crises.

In Athens, I heard a lecture by Haralambos Papasotiriou, professor of strategic studies in the Department of International and European Studies at Panteion University. He noted that in America the tea party movement responded to the Obama administration's stimulus by calling for fiscal austerity, whereas the austerity measures embraced by European governments fueled protests against public sector employment or compensation cuts.

"Europe and America ought to swap protesters," said Mr. Papasotiriou, with a grin.

So if troubled European governments responded to the global financial crisis differently from the United States, can we conclude that America got it right?

Preliminarily, yes, we can: Economic indicators strongly suggest that the Obama administration and those who called in 2009 for a massive, Keynesian stimulus made the prudent, informed choice. The annualized real GDP growth rate in the United States for the last quarter of 2011 was 3.0 percent; in Europe, there is either zero growth or GDP contraction in many countries. Optimism, investment and hiring are on the rise here, while panic and rising unemployment persist on the other side of the Atlantic.

"Growth-damping austerity packages seem to be sweeping across Europe, testing the Continent's approach to managing the sovereign-debt crisis," wrote Christopher Emsden this month in The Wall Street Journal. "The scenario—unfolding now in Italy, Greece and Spain—would leave troubled euro-zone countries with higher public debt ratios even as they take painful efforts to reduce them."

Austerity measures—tax increases and public sector payroll and benefit reductions—actually resulted in higher, not lower debt ratios for some European economies because GDP contraction yielded lower tax revenues, which more than offset any short-term economic savings from budget-slashing. European countries that should have increased aggregate demand through some combination of government spending and tax cuts instead exacerbated their financial problems by opting for austerity-minded tax increases and public sector cuts.

The bottom line? The Obama administration's 2009 economic stimulus package—a third of which was dedicated to low-stimulus tax cuts—worked. So did the Detroit auto bailout. So did the TARP loans supported in 2008 by both President-elect Obama and then-President George W. Bush.

"Europe has had several years of experience with harsh austerity programs, and the results are exactly what students of history told you would happen: such programs push depressed economies even deeper into depression," Nobel-winning Princeton economist Paul Krugman wrote in his New York Times column this week about what he called Europe's "economic suicide."

America should take Mr. Papasotiriou's advice and put the tea party protesters on a slow barge to Europe. Their calls for austerity were wrong. At a time of serious crisis, they proved themselves to be unserious demagogues with no sense of economic history.

Who needs government?

By KEVIN HORRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Horrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Readers may write to him at:* St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or email him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.*

I want government to leave me alone. I'm sick of it. Whatever happened to personal freedom? Whatever happened to personal responsibility? I want that government should just go away.

Except for the garbage men. I love throwing stuff away. I want that to continue. I pay $11 a month for it, and that doesn't cover all the costs, so I want government to pay for the rest. Forget recyclables. I don't remember that the Founding Fathers said anything about recycling.

Once the trash gets picked up, government should leave me the hell alone.

Well, maybe a few cops can stay on my street. And the firehouse in my neighborhood should stay open. And if my street gets a hole in it, government should fix it. And keep the stoplights going, but synchronize them so I don't have to wait at red lights.

Bad guys should continue to go to jail, so we'll have to keep judges, sheriffs, jailers, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers and so forth. But that's it. Now leave me alone.

But that's local government. Having just written a check to the Internal Revenue Service, the big thing I want to go away is the federal government. Luckily, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that by 2050, the Republican budget resolution that passed the U.S. House would eliminate the money for everything the federal government does except Social Security, health care and national defense.

I'm OK with that, except for meat inspection. That pink slime stuff is gross. I don't want trichinosis or E. coli. Agriculture inspectors can stay, because I've read about this mysterious, oozing foam that sometimes causes hog barns to explode.

I don't know any hog farmers and mostly I don't care what happens to other people, but getting blown up in a giant hog foam explosion is just too awful a way to die. I guess I'm just a softie.

Except for the hog barn thing, government can stay out of my junk.

Fine, air traffic control can stay. I don't fly much any more, but some people I like have to fly, and I'd hate to lose them. I suppose we should keep some security at the gates, too. But that's it. After that, government should butt out.

I guess we need to save veterans' benefits, particularly because we'll need a lot of soldiers to use all the weapons the Republicans' defense budget will pay for. But no swanky golf courses and private jets for generals and admirals. No more weapons for stopping the Soviet Union.

Have I got everything covered?

Farm subsidies, out. Roads and bridges that I don't drive on, out. Pell grants? Don't need 'em. Out. Small business loans? Don't have a small business. Out.

Mine Safety and Health Administration? Four words: Magic of the Marketplace. Miners won't want to work in unsafe mines, so owners will have to fix 'em up. Q.E.D.

Same thing with OSHA. Guys won't want to work in unsafe places, so companies naturally will spend the extra money to attract workers.

In fact, we probably can do away with all the regulatory agencies, except for the exploding-hog-barn guys. Do you really think that in a magic marketplace, airlines would cut corners on maintenance? And banks—do you think they'd rip off their customers when they know the bank down the street is playing fair? Don't you understand human nature?

I'm tired of hearing about the so-called safety net. Food stamps, for example. The monthly food stamp allotment in Missouri is $127. Some restaurants, you can spend that much on a single meal, especially if you get a halfway decent bottle of wine.

At $127 a month, if you eat three meals a day, that works out to about $1.40 per meal. Is anyone really going to miss a buck-forty? You can find that much in the sofa cushions. Don't have a sofa? Find one on a curb somewhere, whiner.

Homeland security? I'm torn. I hate terrorists, but the Department of Homeland Security budget this year is $59.7 billion, which is an awful lot of money to spend on the off chance that a terrorist will attack me. I'm willing to take the risk.

Newspapers, radio, TV and the Internet are full of weather, so we don't need the National Weather Service. Federal disaster assistance? I don't live in a mobile home or on the Gulf Coast. NASA? Private enterprise can go to the moon. Federal prisons and courts? Because we won't have the FBI to arrest people, we won't have to worry about them.

Clean air? You want clean air, visit a national park. Just don't expect any park rangers.

Justice Holmes said taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society. By 2050, that won't be a problem.

Attacks on President Obama unfounded

By STARITA SMITH
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Now that George Zimmerman has been arrested, right-wingers should cease attacking President Obama over this issue.

Obama, remember, sensibly called the shooting a tragedy and said that if he had a son, the boy would look like Trayvon Martin.

Then, all at once, Newt Gingrich, Michele Bachmann, Rick Santorum, Rush Limbaugh, Southern Baptist leader Richard Land and others accused Obama caring about Martin only because the youth was African-American.

This bogus charge fuels the old canard that Obama wants to be president for black America and not for the entire country. But Obama is hardly a black nationalist. While he identifies as a black man, he has bent over backward not to show preference to black causes, such as the prison-industrial complex or the crisis in urban America. That's not enough for his conservative critics, however.

In this case, they want him to ignore the anguish and anxiety that parents of black youths face in this country every day. It is not a figment of our imagination that racism is still alive and well. We want to protect our sons and daughters from it, but we are excruciatingly aware that at any time, they could face what could be fatal judgment at the hands of a vigilante.

Conservatives manufactured this controversy in part to try to get Obama to be even more circumspect about bringing up race than he has been since being elected and in part because they are worried that Obama might be rallying black citizens to vote for him. They understand that the Republican Party has a problem appealing to minorities.

When Obama won the presidency in 2008, he received 95 percent of the votes cast by blacks. He also got 67 percent of the Latino vote and a majority of the votes cast by Asian-Americans. Plus, he managed to win 43 percent of the white vote.

Just as the voters who put Obama in the White House represent a diverse majority of America, people who expressed outrage over the shooting of Trayvon Martin were also a diverse group. Unlike conservatives who want to pretend that racism no longer exists, millions of Americans understand that we have not finished dealing with racism in this country. Obama was trying to provide comfort in a way that no other American president could have done and, at the same time, was acknowledging what he sees in the mirror.

He should be applauded, not ridiculed, for doing so.

Starita Smith teaches sociology at the University of North Texas. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project*, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with* The Progressive *magazine. Readers may write to the author at:* Progressive Media Project*, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; email: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org. For information on PMP's funding, please visit http://www.progressive.org/pmpabout.html#anchorsupport.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

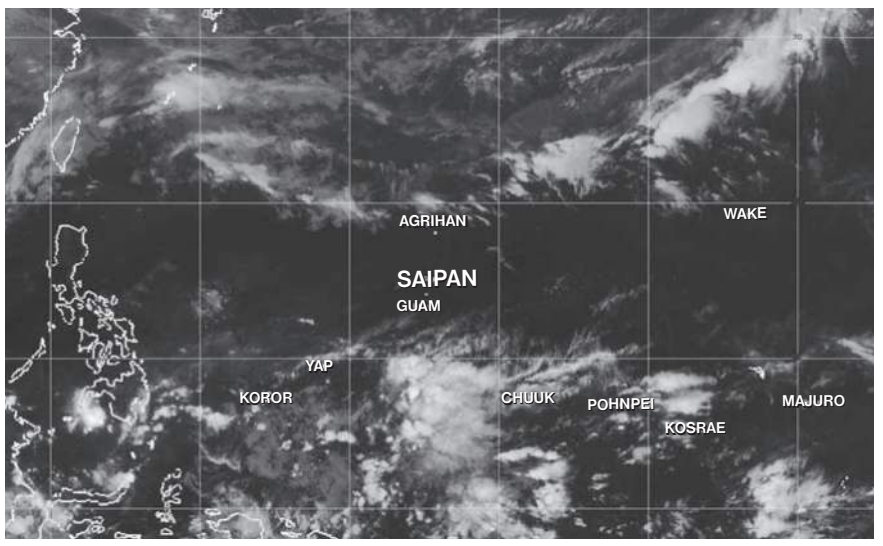
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲92	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼54
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
London	Showers	▲54	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲74	▼58
Miami	Thundershowers	▲80	▼72
New York	Thundershowers	▲73	▼48
Osaka	Showers	▲60	▼58
Paris	Showers	▲58	▼41
Pusan	Showers	▲63	▼52
Rome	Showers	▲66	▼50
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲78	▼62
Seoul	Showers	▲57	▼48
Tokyo	Showers	▲59	▼52
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲76	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to 20N145E then curves northwestward as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 23N. Widespread rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 250 miles northwest of the cold front. Scattered showers are found along and up to 180 miles north of the stationary front. Converging winds southeast of the cold front are producing isolated thunderstorms north of Wake Island or north of a line from 21N160E to 25N170E. A surface trough runs northwestward from 3N133E to beyond 130E at 10N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with this feature are seen over Koror and Yap between 3N and 10N from 130E to 140E. Another surface trough reaches northwestward from EQ143E to 7N140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near the trough axis well southwest of Guam between the equator and 9N from 140E to 145E. Strong trade-wind convergence east of the trough is causing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms west and southwest of Chuuk or south of a line from 9N145E to 7N151E. Converging trade winds are creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between 3N and 8N from 151E to 165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
9:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:37 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	7:19 PM
Monday	7:00 AM	8:08 PM
Tuesday	7:45 AM	8:58 PM
Wednesday	8:32 AM	9:47 PM

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat)
Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 21, 2000

Plan to restructure MVA Board opposed
The Marianas Visitors Authority has opposed a proposed measure which would change the structure of the board of directors reducing the number of members that will be appointed by the governor because it is unconstitutional and in violation of the CNMI public policy. Currently, five members of the board are appointed by the governor while the four remaining members are elected by the MVA tourism industry members. In a letter sent to Rep. Dino M. Jones, MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio said MVA was created in conformance with Public Law 11-15 which declared the Authority as a public corporation.

CPA not compromising safety over noise concerns
The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday stood pat against proposals to change flight altitude of aircraft flying between Saipan and Tinian because doing so would compromise the safety of passengers, according to Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Mr. Salas was reacting on a concern raised by lawyer Michael A. White, who asked the ports authority to require aircraft passing between Saipan and Tinian to fly at a higher altitude to minimize the noise level generated by the altered flight pattern. "CPA has changed the take off and landing pattern at the Saipan International Airport, this causes them to pass directly over my house, the altitude means considerable noise during their passage, it is disturbing and obtrusive," the lawyer said.

April 21, 2003

NMI gets $435K from tobacco firms
Attorney General Ramona Manglona disclosed that the CNMI was to receive some $435,000 from Philip Morris and other tobacco manufacturers last week, in accordance with the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. Under the agreement, the tobacco companies are to pay several states and territories annual payments in perpetuity. According to Manglona, the payments are estimated to total around $206 billion by 2025. "This is excellent news," said Manglona in a press statement, adding that the payment was timely. In the statement, the CNMI's chief lawyer said Philip Morris honored its obligation, posting the fund to a Citibank account last week. The total amount is a combined payment of Philip Morris and other tobacco manufacturers that are signatories to the agreement.

'NMC audit fiasco not due to former auditor'
Contrary to what people may have perceived, the deficient audit reports of the Northern Marianas College did not stem from any mistake made by its former auditor but due to a mistake by the college during its submission of audit reports to the accrediting body and the federal government. This was clarified by NMC president Kenneth E. Wright, soon after the NMC's former auditor confronted him over the "negative" audit reports at the college, which apparently resulted in the auditing firm getting a seemingly unfavorable feedback from the public. Wright said the NMC's former auditor, Magliari and Company, made "a little protest" following the awarding of an auditing contract to a new firm, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

April 21, 2004

Labor mulls exit requirement for alien workers
If plans push through, all nonresident workers in the CNMI would be required to exit the islands after each contract termination or expiration, regardless if the employer plans to renew the contract of the worker or not. Those who would be renewed by the same employer or those getting new contracts with another employer would still be required to leave the Commonwealth and come back when applications are approved. On the other hand, the Department of Labor is planning to authorize contract employments of up to five years.

Proposed museum eyed as major Garapan attraction
The CNMI government is mulling the creation of a new museum within a wetland in Garapan, which will become a major tourist attraction in line with the Garapan Revitalization Project. The CNMI Museum Cultural Center would be put up at the location of the former Nakamoto Hotel project between the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach and the Hafa Adai Hotel, CNMI management special assistant Chuck Jordan said. "This site is probably one of the best preserved sites in the Marianas, including Guam," Jordan said. He said some 280 bodies were exhumed from the site, while the Historic Preservation Office also had other discoveries of historical and archeological significance.

Maharlika

OFWs urged to keep abreast of shoal dispute with China

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consul General Medardo Macaraig stressed yesterday the need for Filipinos to be informed and to understand the issues surrounding the disputed Scarborough Shoal as tensions escalate between the Philippines and China. ***See related stories on next page.***

Macaraig circulated copies of the Philippine position containing the "basic arguments" in support of its ownership claim on Scarborough Shoal and its surrounding waters.

"This information is being disseminated because there are a lot of questions about the claims of the Philippines. We have to give the public the information they're requesting," said Macaraig during the presentation of Saipan Simbang Gabi Group's donation at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

The ongoing standoff between the two nations arose on April 8 this year when a Philippine Navy surveillance aircraft conducting maritime patrols observed eight Chinese fishing vessels anchored inside the shoal's lagoon.

Philippine Navy frigate BRP *Gregorio del Pilar* dispatched an inspection team two days later and found out that compartments of the discovered fishing vessels contained large amounts of illegally collected corals, giant clams, and live sharks—a "serious" violation of the nation's sovereignty and maritime jurisdiction, the Fisheries Code, and the U.N. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

Also known as Bajo de Masinloc and Panatag Shoal, Scarborough Shoal is a ring-shaped chain of reefs and rocks and is considered part of the Municipality of Masinloc in Zambales. It sits 124 nautical miles west of Zambales and is well within the 200 nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and continental shelf under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS.

Philippine flags have been raised on some of the islets of the shoal in 1965 and 1997. A small lighthouse was also built and operated on one of the islets in 1965. The Philippine Navy rehabilitated the lighthouse and published it in the International Maritime Organization's List of Lights in 1992.

Scarborough Shoal was used as an impact range by Philippine and U.S. Naval Forces stationed in Subic Bay in Zambales and is a site for scientific, topographic, and marine studies conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with the University of the Philippines.

Due to its proximity to coastal towns of Southwest Luzon, the shoal has been a familiar fishing ground for Filipino fishermen.

The "full sovereignty and jurisdiction" exercised by the Philippines over the rock features of the shoal is based not just on UNCLOS but also in other principles of public international law, particularly the "effective exercise of jurisdiction," which is a modality for acquiring territorial ownership over a piece of real estate and was used in several cases tried in international courts and tribunals.

China's assertion over the shoal is anchored on historical claims, which must satisfy several criteria according to public international law.

"The Philippines is committed to the process of consultations with China toward a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the situation," the position stated.

"As the DFA works toward a diplomatic solution, the Philippine Coast Guard is present in the area and is continuing to enforce relevant Philippine laws," it added.

Macaraig emphasized that Filipinos "have to know the pressing issues of the day." "Otherwise, you will be lost in the future if you don't keep yourself abreast with the present issues. You won't be able to understand what might happen. Not knowing the truth is also a form of disinformation."

A copy of the position may be obtained at the Consulate office on the 5th floor of Marianas Business Plaza. For information, call 234-1850.

Flashpoint

Over the past few years, China has become more assertive in its claims to areas of the South China Sea, which is believed to be rich in oil and gas.

Behind the standoff

- **1947** China issues a map showing the islands within its territory (shown on map); Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei lay claim to territory within the nautical exclusion zone
- **2010-2011** two island chains, the Paracels and the Spratlys, and many atolls, sandbars and reefs are claimed in whole or in part by China and the four other countries
- **2012** Philippines and China contest sovereignty over a small group of rock formations known as Scarborough Shoal; agree to resolve an ongoing naval standoff diplomatically

Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters, AP

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Saipan Simbang Gabi Group turns over $11K for new PH classrooms

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officers and members of the Saipan Simbang Gabi Group turned over yesterday a check worth $11,712.34 for the "Classroom *Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino* Abroad" to Consul General Medardo Macaraig and welfare officer Julie Fabian at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

The donation from the non-profit organization will be used to build two new classrooms for the Tangaoan Elementary School in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur, the Philippines.

"Classroom *Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino* Abroad" (Classroom from Filipino citizens abroad) is a classroom-building project that seeks to relieve the critical shortage of classrooms in the country.

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group decides where to build classrooms based on information provided by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, which identifies schools in depressed areas in the Philippines that are in dire need of classrooms.

"We're happy that there will again be students who will benefit from the new classrooms that will be built using this donation," Macaraig said after the check presentation. "It will help alleviate the shortage of classrooms in the Philippines."

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group president Marcelino G. Pacson disclosed that it took them three years to collect donations coming mostly from parishioners of Mount Carmel Cathedral, which is home to the holiday tradition among Filipinos after which the group was named.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group officers and members led by president Marcelino G. Pacson, fourth right, presents the check amounting to $11,712.34 to Consul General Medardo Macaraig in a ceremony at the Filipino Workers Resource Center yesterday.

"We value the support that the community has given for this classroom project. If not for them, construction of two new classrooms for the students of Tangaoan Elementary School will not materialize. I hope that they will continue to help other people and carry on the tradition of *simbang gabi* (dawn mass)," Pacson told *Saipan Tribune*.

However, with the impending closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, which helps facilitate the project, Pacson said they are thinking of going in a new direction for their next project.

Macaraig announced in February the decision of the Department of Foreign Affairs to include the Saipan Consulate general among the consular posts that will be closed down within the year. Its last day is on Oct. 31.

Among their possible projects, Pacson said, is to provide scholarships for young men who aspire to be priests in the future.

Pacson added that the group plans to bring to Saipan within the year a healing priest in support of health and spiritual growth of community members.

Medical mission in Susupe on Sunday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents of Susupe and nearby villages can avail of free medical and other services during the medical mission of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch.

The event will be held on Sunday, April 22, from 3pm to 6pm at the Susupe basketball court at the back of Mobil gas station.

This marks the third medical mission outreach of the religious group for this year. The first two were conducted at the Garapan Roundhouse last Feb. 19 and at the Hi-Mart parking lot on March 18.

The free services available are blood sugar and blood pressure check-ups, eye screening, reflexology/body massage, cleansing/facial massage, haircut, and counseling. Refreshments will also be offered to attendees.

Church pastor Claire Javillonar said they have visited houses in the area to encourage residents to avail of the free services.

"We are inviting everyone, most especially our neighbors around Susupe," Javillonar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Javillonar disclosed that they plan to bring the medical mission to Rota soon. She said they also welcome more volunteers for their monthly community service.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Javillonar at 789-7566.

China deploys gunboat to disputed Scarborough Shoal

China has dispatched a powerful military vessel in the South China Sea after rejecting a Philippine proposal to submit the Panatag Shoal dispute, now on its 10th day, to international arbitration, Chinese media reported Thursday.

» Lone Coast Guard vessel hanging tough

The English-language China Daily based in Beijing said that China's most advanced fishing patrol vessel, the Yuzheng 310, had been sent to protect Chinese fishermen in the region, which Manila calls the West Philippine Sea.

The newspaper, regarded as a guide to official Chinese policy, said that Beijing's latest moves underscored its "determination to protect its maritime interests in response to Manila's refusal to withdraw ships from Chinese waters."

Yuzheng 310, described as the fastest fishery administration vessel, left Guangzhou on the Pearl River just outside Hong Kong Wednesday morning for an undisclosed place in the South China Sea, it said.

10 fishing boats

The newspaper said that earlier on Sunday, Yuzheng 44061 left Zhanjiang port in Guangdong province to patrol waters around the Spratlys (which Beijing calls the Nansha Islands), which are being claimed in whole or in part by the Philippines and China and four other countries.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 10 boats were still fishing in the general area of Panatag, according to a Voice of America report.

"Beijing's decision to send more patrol ships is a necessary and justified step to show strength," China Daily said, quoting analysts.

"The move also sends the message to Manila that Beijing does not make concessions after China has shown patience and sincerity to avert the situation from deteriorating," the daily quoted an analyst at the China Foundation for International and Strategic Studies.

PCG ship stays put

The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Thursday announced that the government-commissioned archaeological vessel MY Sarangani and a fishing boat had left Panatag, which the Chinese calls Huangyan Island and which is internationally known as Scarborough Shoal.

Only a Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel, BRP Edsa, remains in the area about 220 kilometers west of Zambales and well within the 370 km exclusive economic zone of the Philippines, according to Lieutenant General Anthony Alcantara, AFP Northern Luzon commander.

Alcantara said the BRP Edsa had reported sighting three vessels at Panatag but could not determine if they were Chinese. He said the Coast Guard could not even check the flags of the vessels.

"They are not Filipino vessels," Alcantara said in a phone interview with reporters in Manila. He said the Coast Guard had also spotted two outrigger boats in the lagoon in the middle of a cluster of reefs and islands. He said he had no information on when the fishing boats arrived there.

The sightings of the foreign fishing vessels on Wednesday coincided with the departure of the Sarangani and the Filipino fishing boat.

Alcantara said the two Filipino vessels left because their work was done and not because of intimidation. "As far as I know there was no threat to them. They were protected by our Coast Guard," he said. He said the BRP Edsa would "continue its mission, to take care of our interest in Scarborough Shoal and then to protect our fishermen, Filipino nationals if need be."

Arbitration nixed

The standoff at Panatag started on April 10, two days after a Philippine Navy plane spotted eight Chinese fishing boats in the area. The Navy flagship, BRP Gregorio del Pilar, was dispatched to the scene. Navy officers boarded one vessel and found illegally poached marine life but two Chinese surveillance ships intervened. Beijing has since maintained civilian surveillance vessels in the area.

The Coast Guard later relieved the Gregorio del Pilar to enforce maritime laws, according to military and defense officials, while a diplomatic solution was being pursued.

On April 14, a Chinese vessel ordered the Sarangani to withdraw and on April 16 a Chinese aircraft buzzed a fishing boat in Panatag in the second such incident in four days, prompting the Department of Foreign Affairs to file a diplomatic protest.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, who is in New York on a previously arranged UN-connected mission, has proposed taking the Panatag issue to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, but Beijing has rejected this, insisting on bilateral discussions.

Zhang Hua, spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Manila, on Thursday urged the Philippines to settle the dispute "through friendly consultations so as not to complicate or aggravate the incident."

Philippine officials have vowed to remain at Panatag, claiming the area as part of the country.

A limit to bullying

House Assistant Majority Leader Sherwin Tugna on Thursday urged the Aquino administration to lodge an immediate complaint in the tribunal based in Hamburg, Germany, without waiting for Beijing.

"China's thumbing down of our proposal should not mean its end. We have the right to pursue it in the proper legal forum," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senator Francis Escudero on Thursday supported Malacañang's decision to ignore Chinese demands to withdraw from Panatag.

"There's a limit in allowing ourselves to be bullied. It's called self-respect," said Sotto.

"It's not for them to make demands. The Philippines is correct in simply ignoring it instead of saber-rattling and fanning the flames of conflict any further," said Escudero.

In a statement, the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan assailed Chinese incursions. "As a matter of principle, the Filipino people must assert Philippine sovereignty against any move to undermine it," said the group's secretary general, Renato Reyes Jr.

'They don't fish anymore'

Mayor Desiree Edora of Masinloc, Zambales province, said fishermen had been avoiding Panatag, which Spanish colonizers called Bajo de Masinloc, and which she said was part of her municipality.

"It is mostly our fishermen who go there to fish," she said in a radio interview Thursday. "They have not been there for quite some time because they are afraid that a confrontation might erupt. They don't go there anymore," Edora said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer China Daily and Voice of America)***

PH *not intimidated by Chinese gunboat*

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines won't be intimidated by China's **dispatch** of a gunboat to Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, a Malacañang official said on Friday.

Ricky Carandang, head of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, said the dispute over the shoal involves not only the Philippines but the whole region.

"We will not be intimidated. The Philippines may be a small country but we have a principle that we are fighting for," Carandang said in a text message to reporters. "This is not just for the Philippines but for the good of the whole region."

Nonetheless, Carandang said, the Aquino government would continue to talk with Chinese authorities to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Report: Women's lower status risk for Asian future

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHANGHAI (AP)—The 2 billion women in Asia are still paid less than men for similar work and are extremely underrepresented in top leadership positions, according to a report that estimates limits on female employment cost the region $89 billion a year in lost productivity.

The Asia Society survey on women's status in health, education, economic activity and political leadership urges improvements to ensure the region benefits fully from its underused pool of human talent.

While the status of women varies widely from country to country from one category to the next, overall, "to continue in this direction would put in peril Asia's many achievements," said the report, compiled by Astrid S. Tuminez, a professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore.

The report cited United Nations data in estimating the lost productivity for Asia at $89 billion a year because of limits on female employment.

Overall, based on various measures—the report also uses data from The Economic Forum and other sources—the gender gap was narrowest and women's leadership strongest in New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Mongolia.

The gap was widest in Pakistan, Nepal, India, South Korea and Cambodia.

"Some economies in Asia with the highest human development rankings also perform most poorly in some measures of women's leadership," it said, referring specifically to Japan and South Korea.

Asia leads the world in terms of the number of years women have governed as heads of state, and currently has four women leaders. But the report attributes that to dynastic traditions calling for women to take over from fathers, husbands or sons when they die, are imprisoned or killed.

It said the problem begins before birth, with sex-selective abortions and infanticide due to a preference for sons in countries such as China and India.

It said the bias in favor of sons means that girls in some countries receive poorer medical care, nutrition and education than boys, especially in developing countries.

The discrepancy in schooling leaves the majority of women in four Asian nations illiterate, the report said, citing literacy rates of 10 percent in Bhutan, 16 percent in Pakistan, 25 percent in Nepal and 31 percent in Bangladesh.

Although women live longer in Asian nations as in other regions, such disadvantages affect health and earning power over a lifetime, the report noted.

"From the very start, girls in Asia face significant obstacles to fulfilling their human potential, in general, and their potential for leadership, in particular," Asia Society President Vishakha N. Desai said in introducing the report.

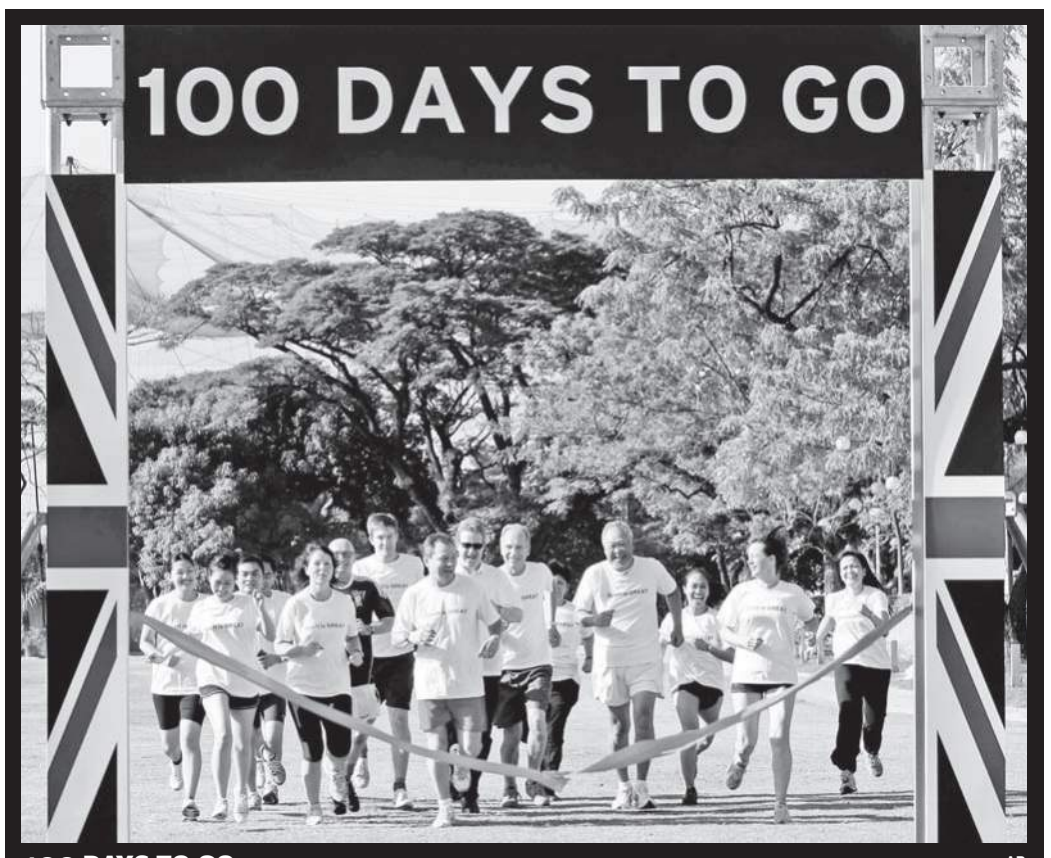
Pay gaps remain significant, the report said, with the ratio of women's pay to men's lowest in South Korea, at 51 percent, below that of Nepal, Bangladesh and China. Japan's was not much better, at 60 percent.

» Philippines ranks high in women's leadership

The narrowest gaps, the report found, were in Malaysia and Singapore, at 81 percent, and Mongolia and Thailand, at just under 80 percent. Globally, women's pay is 20 percent to 30 percent less than men's, on average. As far as women in senior corporate positions, Japan came in worst in the region with just 5 percent of those postions held by women.

Thailand and the Philippines ranked highest in this regard, with women holding 39 percent of senior level positions, while India came in at 14 percent and China 25 percent, it said, citing a survey by human resources consultancy Grant Thornton International.

The percentage of women on corporate boards was much lower, with Japan at 0.9 percent, South Korea at 1.9 percent and China at 8.5 percent. New Zealand ranked highest, at 9.3 percent. The global average is 21 percent, down from 24 percent in 2009, the report said.



100 DAYS TO GO AP

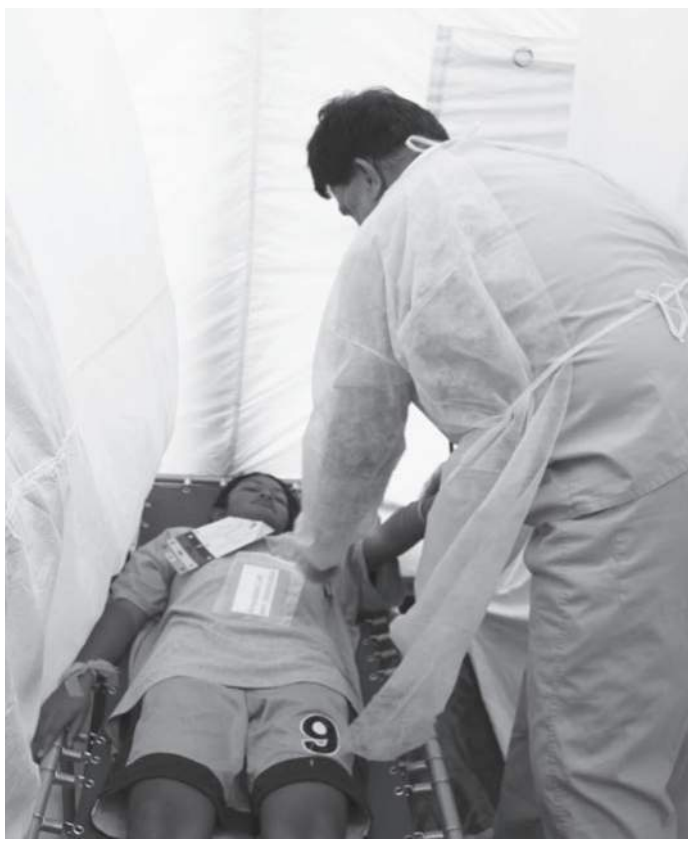
British and Filipino embassy staff, led by British Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Lillie, center in shades, make the ceremonial 100-m race to mark the 100-day countdown to the 2012 London Olympics Wednesday April 18, 2012 at the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines. Four Filipinos were chosen as Olympic torch bearers and six athletes qualified for the Games.

Samu't Sari

MONETH G. DEPOSA

TRIENNIAL AIRPORT DRILL

Police from the Department of Public Safety are on standby at the San Francisco International Airport to assist responders at the "crash site" where a 767 aircraft from Alaska "crashed" on the runway Thursday morning. Over a hundred responders from various departments and agencies joined the 2012 Triennial Airport Disaster Training Exercise.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

A medical staff immediately attends to a "victim" who suffered minor bruises on the arm at a makeshift hospital near the crash site Thursday morning at the Francisco Ada International Airport. Twenty-five medical providers were dispatched to the area to respond to the "emergency."

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Responders in the airport emergency drill are seen taking out the "fatalities" from the aircraft a few moments after the "crash" where 42 were declared "dead" at the site while scores others suffered injuries.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

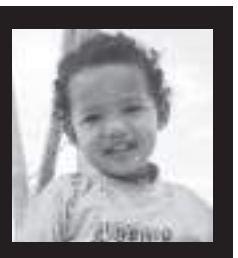
Two responders are seen taking a "dead" body from the site during Thursday morning's emergency drill at the airport's runway.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EASTER BRUNCH

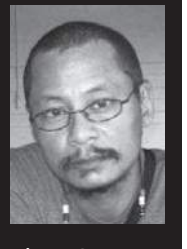
Brothers Draven John Crisostimo Tudela and Franko Ray Crisostimo Tudela pose with the Easter Bunny at the Aqua Resort Club's Easter Brunch.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy second birthday to Daryl Joseah Ray! With love, from Mom, Dad, Kyra, Mama, Papa, and your Songsong and Pitu families.

Happy, happy 8th birthday to Justice Basa! May you have many blessing from the big man above and we love you very much! Enjoy you day! Greetings come from the family.



Belated happy birthday greetings go to a very loving husband, supportive dad, and the best grandpa, Jose Tyquiengco, who celebrated his birthday on April 20. Happy birthday, thank you for everything, and we love you! Greetings come from your wife, kids, and granddaughter Genecia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CLARISSA V. DAVID

MARIANAS MARCH AGAINST CANCER WEEK

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, is surrounded by Commonwealth Cancer Association officers, Marianas March Against Cancer committee members and other cancer awareness supporters as he signs the proclamation designating April 23 to 28 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

Business

2 years later, fish sick near BP oil spill site

BARATARIA BAY, La. (AP)—Open sores. Parasitic infections. Chewed-up-looking fins. Gashes. Mysterious black streaks. Two years after the drilling-rig explosion that touched off the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, scientists are beginning to suspect that fish in the Gulf of Mexico are suffering the effects of the petroleum.

The evidence is nowhere near conclusive. But if those suspicions prove correct, it could mean that the environmental damage to the Gulf from the BP disaster is still unfolding and the picture isn't as rosy as it might have seemed just a year ago.

And the damage may extend well beyond fish. In the past year, research has emerged showing deep-water coral, seaweed beds, dolphins, mangroves and other species of plants and animals are suffering.

"There is lots of circumstantial evidence that something is still awry," said Christopher D'Elia, dean of Louisiana State University's School of the Coast and Environment. "On the whole, it is not as much environmental damage as originally projected. Doesn't mean there is none."

Reports of strange things with fish began emerging when fishermen returned to the Gulf weeks after BP's gushing oil well was capped during the summer of 2010. They started catching grouper and red snapper with large open sores and strange black streaks, lesions they said they had never seen. They promptly blamed the spill.

The illnesses are not believed to pose any health threat to humans. But the problems could be devastating to some prized types of fish and to the people who make their living catching them.

There's no saying for sure what's causing the diseases in what is still a relatively small percentage of the fish. The Gulf is assaulted with all kinds of contaminants every day. Moreover, scientists have no baseline data on sick fish in the Gulf from before the spill. The first comprehensive research may be years from publication.

Still, it's clear to fishermen and researchers alike that something's amiss.

■ A recent batch of test results revealed the presence of oil in the bile extracted from fish caught in August 2011, nearly 15 months after the well blew out on April 20, 2010, in a disaster that killed 11 men.

"Bile tells you what a fish's last meal was," said Steve Murawski, a marine biologist with the University of South Florida and former chief science adviser for the National Marine Fisheries Service. "There was as late as August of last year an oil source out there that some of those animals were consuming."

AP

This 2011 photo provided by Donald Waters shows a fish harvested from the Gulf of Mexico with unusual lesions and infections.

Rumors swirl of smaller iPad, which Jobs detested

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple generates more gossip than the Kardashians.

There's a constantly spinning mill of rumors about Apple products, most of which turn out to be untrue. What's unusual this week is that talk has revived of a smaller iPad model, an idea company founder Steve Jobs derided publicly a year before he died.

Apple and its suppliers aren't commenting. Rumors of a smaller iPad, or "iPad mini" have percolated ever since the first iPad was launched two years ago. This time around, they're fed by media reports from South Korea, China and Taiwan, saying Apple has ordered Samsung screens that are 7.86 inches measured on the diagonal. That would make the screen about two-thirds the size of the current iPad, which has a diagonal measurement of 9.7 inches.

■ WHY IT'S A GOOD IDEA: A smaller tablet would help Apple further its lead in the tablet market.

"From a competitive standpoint, we believe an iPad mini with a lower price point would be the competition's worst nightmare, says Shaw Wu, an analyst at Sterne Agee. "Most (competitors) already have a tough enough time competing against the iPad 2, as well as the new iPad."

Apple has successfully fended off competitors who have tried to sell tablets in iPad's size range. But last year, Amazon.com Inc. figured out how to crack Apple's stranglehold on tablets by making a half-size, no-frills tablet. The result was the Kindle Fire, which sells for $199 -basically, the cost of production. Amazon has sold millions of them.

Apple sells the iPod Touch for $199, but its screen is about a quarter of the size of the Kindle Fire—a big disadvantage for people who want to enjoy books, movies and games. It also sells the older iPad model for $399. It has nothing in between.

Price isn't the only reason customers might prefer a smaller tablet. A 7-inch model would fit in many handbags, unlike the current iPad.

Wu says he's seen evidence of Apple experimenting with both smaller and larger tablet screens since 2009, and doesn't sense that the release of an iPad mini is "imminent."

■ WHAT IT MIGHT COST: It could be hard for Apple to make money from an iPad-quality 7-inch tablet that sells for $299. Analysts at IHS iSuppli estimate that a smaller tablet would cost around $250 to produce, a figure that doesn't include development costs, packaging or patent royalties. That suggests Apple would price it at $329 or $349.

"The first thing you always have to keep in mind is: Apple is not going to sell an unprofitable product," says Rhoda Alexander at iSuppli.

■ WHY IT'S A BAD IDEA: A smaller iPad would be a headache for software developers.

"Going to a different screen size ends up being a ton of work," says Nate Weiner, the creator of Pocket, an application that stores Web pages and other material for later reading.

"If you take, for an example, an interface built for the iPad and try to cram it into the Kindle Fire, it just doesn't fit," he says.

Doritos tacos put sizzle in Taco Bell's US sales

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Taco Bell's new take on the taco, featuring orange Doritos dust, has helped put the sizzle back in its U.S. sales after a nearly yearlong slump stemming from a short-lived lawsuit that caused the chain some queasiness.

Sales at Taco Bell stores open at least a year—an indicator of a restaurant chain's health—rose 6 percent for the first quarter. Its parent company, Yum Brands Inc., on Thursday predicted even more robust sales gains for the Mexican-style chain in the current quarter.

Yum Chief Financial Officer Rick Carucci predicted sales growth in the high single digits or low double digits.

Taco Bell's introduction of Doritos Locos Tacos in early March has been "enormously successful," Carucci told industry analysts Thursday, one day after Yum reported sharply higher first-quarter earnings on the strength of robust overseas sales and a rebound in the overall company's U.S. performance.

Rollout of tacos that use shells made of Nacho Cheese Doritos came late in the first quarter, so their full impact will be felt in the current quarter. Taco Bell expects to introduce Cool Ranch flavored shells later in the year.

Louisville-based Yum also owns KFC and Pizza Hut, which also had sales gains at established stores in the first quarter. Yum's first-quarter operating profit in the U.S. jumped by 27 percent.

Taco Bell accounts for about 60 percent of U.S. profit for Yum, so its slump had put a dent in the company's performance. It was knocked on its heels by the bad publicity generated by a lawsuit early last year that alleged the meat filling served at its restaurants didn't have enough beef to be called that. Taco Bell denounced the claim as false and spent millions to defend its filling and shore up its image.

The suit was dropped about three months after it was filed by an Alabama law firm. But the chain's sales faltered for months afterward.

Olympus whistleblower wants answer on dismissal

TOKYO (AP)—Michael Woodford, who blew the whistle on an accounting scandal at Olympus Corp., took a stand at its shareholders' meeting Friday and demanded to know why he was fired as chief executive.

The Japanese camera and medical-equipment maker was seeking shareholder approval for new management after executives behind a cover-up of massive investment losses were forced out.

Woodford was fired in October after he blew the whistle on Olympus' dubious accounting.

Tokyo-based Olympus has acknowledged it hid 117.7 billion yen ($1.5 billion) in investment losses dating back to the 1990s.

The company declined to answer Woodford's question, saying the issue was pending litigation in Britain where Woodford is contesting his dismissal.

The company proposals, including the approval of new management, were all passed without problem by enthusiastic clapping from about 1,000 people attending the three-hour meeting, despite spurts of shouting from naysayers.

Olympus had a solid lock over investor votes because of Japanese institutional investors, such as banks, and other support through a "cross-shareholding" system, in which companies own shares in each other.

Reporters watched the shareholders meeting on monitors in a separate room at the same hotel.

The new 11-member board has eight outside board members, including a former executive at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., Olympus' main bank, as chairman. The key executives suspected of engineering the deception have resigned.

A handful of angry shareholders got up and demanded to know why the company had allowed the scandal to happen.

One suggested Woodford be reinstated on the board, along with Masaharu Hamada, an Olympus employee who has won a court case for being unfairly penalized as a whistleblower on an issue unrelated to the cover up of losses. The company is appealing.

"They have a high sense of ethics," said the shareholder, identified by only his surname Yamaguchi.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,964.10	1,376.92	3,007.56
-68.65	-8.22	-23.89
-0.53%	-0.59%	-0.79%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.967	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7614	Philippine Peso	42.69
British Pound	0.6225	Indian Rupee	52.0062	Singapore Dollar	1.2509
Canadian Dollar	0.9945	Indonesian Rupiah	9183.75	South Korean Won	1139.55
Chinese Yuan	6.3086	Japanese Yen	81.589	Swiss Franc	0.9137
Euro	0.7603	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0685	Taiwan Dollar	29.5005
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2294	Thailand Baht	30.92

Nation

GOP pushes business tax cut through divided House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans rammed an election-year, $46 billion tax cut for most of America's employers through the House on Thursday, ignoring a White House veto threat in a debate both parties used to show voters how they would bolster the economy.

The near party-line 235-173 vote moved the bill to the Senate, where Democrats controlling the chamber are sure to ignore it. But the measure's inevitable demise was secondary to the chance it gave each side to offer its prescriptions for creating jobs, echoing the battle that seems certain to dominate this fall's contest for the White House between President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney.

"This is straight-up something to help small businesses keep more of their money while they're having so much difficulty keeping the lights on, and instead giving them the ability to grow," said House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., the measure's sponsor.

"This is not about mom and pop," said Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich. "It's about popping the cork for wealthy taxpayers."

Eighteen Democrats and 10 Republicans defected from their party's positions on the bill.

The vote was the second partisan tax showdown in the Capitol this week, prompted by Tuesday's deadline for filing tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service. On Monday Democrats failed to push a "Buffett Rule" tax on the rich through the Senate, another outcome that was preordained but served political purposes for both sides.

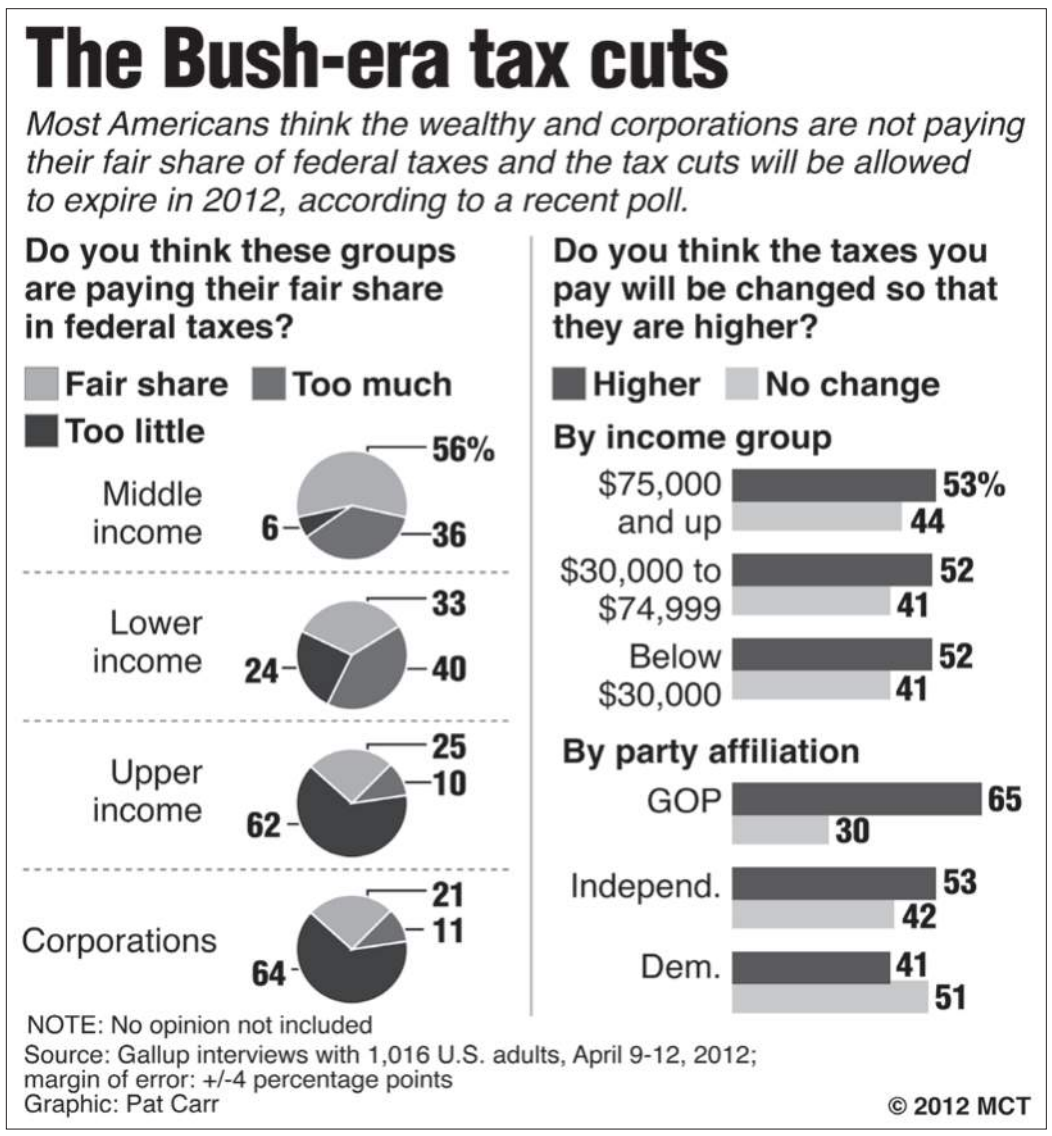
The House GOP measure would let employers with fewer than 500 workers deduct 20 percent of their domestic earnings this year—a calculation that would let businesses show a smaller income before determining the taxes they owe. More than 99 percent of U.S. employers have workforces that size, Census Bureau figures show, but that didn't stop Republicans from naming the legislation the "Small Business Tax Cut Act."

Democrats argued that the bill was too unfocused, providing the tax cut if a company hired no new employees or even if it fired some. They also complained that it was too generous to wealthy individuals owning small firms and to extremely successful businesses.

One estimate by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center said 49 percent of its tax breaks would go to taxpayers with income exceeding $1 million. Using a narrower way of calculating earnings, the Joint Committee on Taxation, Congress' nonpartisan tax analyst, said 18 percent of the benefits would go those making over $1 million and 57 percent would go to taxpayers earning $250,000 and up.

The White House cited both those arguments when it warned this week that aides would urge Obama to veto the legislation.

Democrats tried taking advantage of the bill's broad sweep, trying to embarrass Republicans by forcing a vote on language that would have forbidden the tax breaks from going to businesses including pornographers, prostitution, golf clubs that discriminate by race or sex, and companies that send U.S. jobs overseas. GOP lawmakers held together and defeated the proposal.



NYC basement searched for boy who vanished in 1979

NEW YORK (AP)—Police and the FBI searched a Manhattan basement Thursday for the remains of a 6-year-old boy whose 1979 disappearance on his way to school helped launch a missing children's movement that put kids' faces on milk cartons.

Etan Patz vanished on May 25, 1979, after leaving his family's SoHo apartment for a short walk to catch a school bus. It was the first time his parents had let him go off to school alone.

A forensic team planned to dig up the concrete floor and remove drywall partitions to find blood, clothing or human remains in the building, just down the street from Etan's home, police spokesman Paul Browne said. The work is expected to take up to five days.

FBI and police officials didn't publicly announce what led them to the site, but a law enforcement official told The Associated Press that investigators made the decision to dig after an FBI dog detected the scent of human remains at the building over the past few weeks.

Investigators have long eyed the basement with curiosity because it can be accessed from the street on the boy's route to school. At the time, the space was being used as a workshop by a neighborhood handyman who was thought to have been friendly with Etan.

FBI investigators have interviewed the man several times over the years. Investigators questioned him again recently, and as a result of those discussions decided to refocus their attention on the building, according to the law enforcement official.

AP

This undated file photo provided by Stanley K. Patz shows his son Etan who vanished on May 25, 1979, and has never been found, after leaving his family's SoHo home for a short walk to his school bus stop in New York.

The official spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. Two other law enforcement officials also confirmed that an FBI dog had indicated the scent of human remains in the space.

Etan's disappearance drew national attention to child safety, ushered in a generation of parents who became afraid to send their kids out alone and helped fuel a movement to publicize missing children's cases. Etan's face was among the first to appear on milk cartons. President Ronald Reagan declared May 25, the day of his disappearance, National Missing Children's Day.

Woman charged in death of Marine's wife

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A woman charged Thursday with first-degree murder in the slaying of a Camp Pendleton Marine's wife left a suicide note before paramedics found her with self-inflicted wounds, authorities said.

Jessica Lynn Lopez, 25, could face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted of killing 22-year-old Brittany Dawn Killgore, whose body was found Tuesday in brush near a Southern California lake.

Lopez, who pleaded not guilty Thursday, was discovered with the note in a San Diego hotel room, prosecutor Patrick Espinoza said. No further details were released about the note.

Authorities said earlier this week that paramedics hospitalized Lopez after finding her with self-inflicted cuts in the room but didn't disclose the suicide note. Within hours of finding Lopez, searchers discovered the body of Killgore.

Bail for Lopez was set at $3 million at her arraignment in Vista Superior Court, north of San Diego.

Another Marine, Louis Ray Perez, 45, remained a person of interest in the case. Investigators say he was the last person seen with Killgore.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis declined to discuss evidence or say if there were additional suspects.

"I understand there's a great deal of interest in the crime and many unanswered questions," she said. "Answers will come in time as this case makes its way through the criminal justice system."

Killgore was last seen on April 13, four days after she filed for divorce from her husband, Lance Cpl. Cory Killgore, who was deployed to Afghanistan seven months ago.

Neighbor Patricia Pagdilao said Brittany Killgore often went out with friends after her husband shipped out overseas.

"The only time I ever saw her was with friends, either on the way out or on the way home," Pagdilao, 20, said.

After she disappeared, Killgore's cellphone was found in the Gaslamp District, an area of bars and restaurants in downtown San Diego.

The couple from Missouri was married in July 2010. Brittany Killgore cited "irreconcilable differences" in her divorce filing, which gave no other details.

Cory Killgore has not been named as a suspect or person of interest and is returning to California after learning about the case.

Lopez's attorney Dean Broyles said he didn't know if his client knew Perez or Killgore, who was reported missing Saturday—one day after Lopez turned 25.

Ousted Secret Service supervisor joked about Palin

WASHINGTON (AP)—One of the Secret Service supervisors ousted in the agency's ongoing prostitution scandal joked on Facebook that he was checking out former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin as he protected her during the 2008 campaign.

David Chaney, one of two supervisors forced out of the agency this week, wrote: "I was really checking her out, if you know what i (sic) mean?" after a friend commented on the picture posted in January 2009.

In an interview with Fox News Thursday, Palin said the joke is on Chaney.

"Well, check this out, buddy—you're fired!" Palin said.

Chaney posted at least two pictures of him with Palin, along with another in which a woman in a revealing bikini top stood in the background, looking at Chaney. The photo was captioned: "not in front of my son."

Details of the photos and comments were first reported Thursday by The Washington Post.

Palin said the scandal is "a symptom of government run amok."

"It's like, who's minding the store around here?" Palin told Fox. "The president, for one, he better be wary, there, of when Secret Service is accompanying his family on vacation. They may be checking out the first lady instead of guarding her."

Earlier Thursday, he White House had expressed renewed confidence in the director of the Secret Service in the midst of the sordid scandal, which threatens to become a serious political distraction in an election year. A key lawmaker who oversees the Secret Service predicted more firings there soon.

President Barack Obama's chief spokesman, Jay Carney, noted that some Secret Service employees involved have already lost their jobs, just days into the government's formal investigation of the incident last weekend in Colombia, where Obama was to attend a summit meeting. Carney also said the president's security in Cartagena was never compromised, and he asked for patience as official investigations continue.

"Perhaps it would be in the interests of a complete and thorough and fair investigation not to make determinations about the conclusions of an investigation before they've even been reached," Carney said. "That's the president's position."

Asia

Experts: NKorea missile carrier likely from China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The enormous, 16-wheel truck that North Korea used to carry a missile during a recent parade likely came from China in a possible violation of U.N. sanctions meant to rein in Pyongyang's missile program, experts say.

The carrier, also believed capable of launching missiles, caught the eye of experts during last Sunday's military show in Pyongyang because it was the biggest carrier yet displayed by North Korea and gives the country- truculently at odds with the U.S., Japan and South Korea—the ability to transport long-range missiles around its territory, making them harder to locate and destroy.

The large size of the vehicle "represents a quantum leap forward" for the North Koreans, said Wendell Minnick, a reporter on Asian military developments for Defense News, a Washington-based publication.

Unlikely to have been made by North Korea because of its technical sophistication, experts said the design of the vehicle shows that China is the probable source. Pinning a sanctions-busting charge on Beijing would be difficult, however, because it would be hard to prove that Beijing provided the technology for military purposes or even that it sold the vehicle directly to North Korea, the experts said.

The vehicle also can be used in other fields, like oil exploration. At the same time North Korea might have gotten it from another country in a re-export deal.

"It's very possible there was no intended violation of sanctions by China on this piece of equipment," said arms transfer expert Pieter Wezeman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

On Thursday, China denied any wrongdoing in connection with the vehicle's appearance at the North Korean parade. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin told a regular news conference that China is against the spread of weapons of mass destruction and carriers for such weapons. He said China follows international laws and has strict rules against the spread of such weapons.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said China has provided repeated assurances that it is complying fully with U.N. Security Council resolutions sanctioning North Korea. "We take them at their word," he told a news briefing in Washington.

Analyst Ted Parsons of IHS Jane's Defence Weekly first raised the possibility that the missile-carrying vehicle came from China, citing similarities to Chinese design patterns in the windscreen, the windscreen wiper configuration, the door and handle, the grill, the front bumper lighting configurations, and the cabin steps.

"The 16-wheel TEL is apparently based on a design from the 9th Academy of the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation," he said.

China military analyst Richard Fisher of the International Assessment and Strategy Center in suburban Washington agreed, citing technological challenges as a major reason to believe that Pyongyang could not have developed the vehicle on its own.

"This is definitely a CASIC vehicle that was probably produced specifically for export to North Korea," Fisher said. "The North Koreans don't have the ability to make something like this themselves."

Fisher said that keeping the 16 wheels in alignment would present a particular challenge to North Korea, because of the requirement to develop a sophisticated on board computer system.

This kind of system, he said, was "almost certainly beyond them."

CASIC designs vehicles of up to 21-meter-long (68 feet) trucks with maximum loading capacity of 122 tons for production at its Hubei Sanjiang Space Wanshan Special Vehicles Co., Ltd. in central China.

CASIC's press office did not respond to request for comment. A company statement from October 2010 cited the export of the first 16-wheel vehicle without specifying the purchasing country. The sales department of Hubei Sanjiang confirmed that a vehicle or vehicles of the 16-wheel type had been sold abroad, but refused to disclose the buyer, saying it was "a secret."

AP

In this Sunday, April 15, 2012 file photo, a North Korean vehicle carrying what appears to be a new missile passes by during a mass military parade in the Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang to celebrate the centenary of the birth of late North Korean founder Kim Il Sung.

SKorea says new cruise missiles a warning to North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea unveiled new cruise missiles on Thursday that it said could hit any target in North Korea, and warned Pyongyang it would immediately retaliate against any provocation.

The announcement follows a failed North Korean rocket launch last week that Washington, Seoul and others say was a cover for testing long-range missile technology. Pyongyang, which said the rocket was meant to put a satellite into orbit, on Sunday unveiled a new missile of its own during a military parade.

The rival Koreas' new missiles, along with increasingly hostile rhetoric from Pyongyang aimed at Seoul, come amid worries that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test—something it did after rocket launches in 2006 and 2009. South Korean intelligence officials have said that recent satellite images show North Korea is digging a new tunnel in what appears to be preparation for a third nuclear test at the site of its two past tests.

North Korean space officials, meanwhile, said in a statement Thursday that North Korea has figured out the cause of the rocket failure and will keep pushing forward with its space development program. They didn't describe the cause.

Relations between the Koreas have been abysmal since conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2008 with a hard-line policy that ended unconditional aid shipments to the North. Pyongyang has regularly criticized Lee and his government in its state media in recent days, repeating on Wednesday a threat to wage a "sacred war" against Seoul.

"If we are strong, they cannot provoke us," Lee said Thursday. "North Korea provokes us when we seem weak."

Maj. Gen. Shin Won-sik, a senior official with South Korea's Defense Ministry, said the new missiles could accurately hit all North Korean facilities and equipment "as much as we want so that we can achieve our military goal."

"While maintaining unwavering readiness with this longer-range weaponry, our military will firmly and thoroughly retaliate if North Korea conducts a reckless provocation," Shin said.

ASIA BRIEFS

Afghan leader condemns US troop photos

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned photographs of U.S. soldiers posing with the bloodied remains of three suicide bombers as "disgusting" and said Thursday that only a quicker exit of international forces can prevent such missteps. Karzai joined top American officials in denouncing that 2-year-old photos, the latest in a string of embarrassing controversies that have jeopardized relations between the two countries in the midst of negotiations over the withdrawal of foreign troops. He also warned that "similar incidents of an odious nature" in the past sparked angry reactions from Afghans, including violent protests that left dozens dead, although there was no immediate sign of a popular backlash.

Group says 2 lay Tibetans set themselves on fire

BEIJING (AP)—An overseas activist group says two lay Tibetans have set themselves on fire in front of a monastery in eastern Tibet. London-based Free Tibet says Sonam and Choephak Kyap self-immolated together Thursday in front of Jonang Dzamthang monastery in Dzamthang county. The two, who are in their 20s, were taken away by local residents and appeared to be critically injured. Thirty-two people have set themselves on fire in Tibetan areas over the past year to draw attention to China's restrictions on Buddhism and to call for the return from exile of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. Chinese authorities have confirmed some of the self-immolations but not all.

India missile test has few critics, unlike NKorea

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's successful test of a powerful new missile that can carry nuclear weapons to Beijing caused barely a ripple—even in China—just days after North Korea was globally vilified for a failed rocket launch.

The vastly different responses show the world has grown to accept India as a responsible and stable nuclear power, while shunning North Korea as a pariah.

"It's not the spear, but who holds the spear that matters," said Rahul Bedi, a defense analyst in India. "North Korea is a condemned nation. It's a pariah country. Its record of breaking nuclear agreements is well known. India has emerged in that sense as a fairly responsible country."

The muted response to Thursday morning's test underscores how far India has come in gaining acceptance for its nuclear program. After India tested its first nuclear bomb in 1974, the U.S. put it under sanctions for a quarter century.

But last decade, the U.S. removed the sanctions and eventually ratified in 2008 a landmark deal to allow civilian nuclear trade that effectively accepted India as a nuclear nation.

India hailed its test of the Agni-V missile as a significant step forward in its aspirations to become a regional and world power.

"The nation stands tall today," Defense Minister A.K. Antony said, according to the Press Trust of India.

The missile, with a range of 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles), still requires a battery of tests and must clear other bureaucratic hurdles before it can be inducted into India's arsenal in a few years.

The differences between the two launches were clear before they even got under way.

North Korea insisted its rocket launch on Sunday was merely part of a civilian space program aimed at putting an observation satellite into orbit. The U.S. and other countries called it a thin excuse to test technology for firing a long-range missile fitted with a nuclear warhead. The launch failed when the rocket broke apart soon after takeoff.

The condemnation of North Korea's launch was swift. The United States canceled a plan to send food aid and the U.N. Security Council announced it would impose new sanctions.

India was clear from the start that it was testing a nuclear-capable missile that could reach major Chinese cities.

The government hailed it as a success, releasing video showing the Agni-V taking off from a small launcher on what appeared to be railroad tracks at 8:07 a.m. from Wheeler Island off India's east coast. It rose in a pillar of flame, trailing billows of smoke behind, before arcing through the sky.

The missile hit an altitude of more than 600 kilometers (370 miles), its three stages worked properly and its payload was deployed as planned, the head of India's Defense Research and Development Organization, Vijay Saraswat, told Times Now news channel.

"India has emerged from this launch as a major missile power," he said.

India had joined the small club of nations able to develop and build long-range ballistic missiles, he said.

Yet officials said the missile test should not be seen as a threat because India has a no-first-use policy and its missiles were used only for deterrence.

World

Norway killer sharpened aim by playing video game

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Anders Behring Breivik knew it would take practice to be able to slaughter dozens of people before being shot by police. In a chilling account, the far-right fanatic claimed Thursday that he sharpened his aim by playing the video game "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" for hours on end.

Breivik told an Oslo court he also took steroids to build physical strength and meditated to "de-emotionalize" himself before the bombing and shooting rampage that left 77 people dead. He figured he had no more than a 5 percent chance of not being killed by police.

His lack of remorse and matter-of-fact description of weapons and tactics—he even considered using a flame thrower—were deeply disturbing to families of the victims, most of whom were teenagers.

"They perceive him as evil and dangerous and reopening wounds," said Mette Yvonne Larsen, a lawyer representing the bereaved.

"It's one thing to read explanations, it's quite another to hear a person present such a message," Larsen said. "I am personally quite shocked."

Breivik testified that he prepared for his attacks by cutting off contact with the outside world and devoting himself to video games. He said he played "World of Warcraft" for 16 hours a day while living with his mother in 2006 and, starting in January 2010, played "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare," primarily to get a feel for how to use rifle sights.

Christopher Ferguson, a clinical psychologist at Texas A&M International University, said that although some research suggests action games can improve "visuospatial cognition," it's difficult to say whether Breivik could have improved his accuracy by playing "Modern Warfare."

"Let us keep in mind too that he was shooting kids on an island from which they could not escape easily," said Ferguson, whose research involves the impact of violent video games on behavior. "That does not require great accuracy."

And while the belief persists of a link between violent video games and violent behavior, studies have shown that is not the case, he said.

Norway has been roiled by the trial since it began Monday. The public TV network NRK is broadcasting live from court but isn't allowed to show Breivik's testimony.

Pictures of the confessed mass killer, smirking or flashing his clenched-fist salute, have filled newspaper front pages. For readers who've had enough of his antics, the Dagbladet newspaper website has posted a link to a Breivik-free edition.

But many say finding out what motivated Breivik is crucial for the country to put the July 22 massacre behind it.

"We should consider ourselves lucky to have this trial to uncover his thoughts and values," said Oeystein Stoltenberg, a 59-year-old Oslo resident.

Breivik, who styles himself as a modern-day crusader, has confessed to the attacks but rejects criminal guilt, saying he was acting to protect Norway and Europe by targeting a left-leaning political party that he claims betrayed the country by opening it up to "Islamic colonization."

Since Breivik has admitted to the bombing that killed eight people in Oslo and the shooting massacre that left 69 dead at a Labor Party youth camp on Utoya island, the key issue is to establish whether he is criminally insane.

For the first time since the trial started, Breivik didn't give his right-wing salute when he entered the courtroom Thursday, heeding the advice of his lawyer. But those who were hoping for signs of regret were disappointed.

The 33-year-old Norwegian showed no emotion as he once again described his victims as "traitors" for their links to Norway's governing Labor Party.

"Militant nationalists are split in two," Breivik said. "One half says you should attack Muslims and minorities. The other half says you should attack elites, those who are responsible."

The government building he tried to blow up was "the most attractive political target in all of Norway," he said, adding that he was disappointed to hear on the radio as he drove to the youth camp that the building didn't collapse.

Breivik said he had planned to capture and decapitate former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, then post a video of the beheading on the Internet, but she had left Utoya before he arrived.

The self-styled anti-Islamic militant said he was inspired by al-Qaida's use of decapitation, but noted that "beheading is a traditional European death penalty."

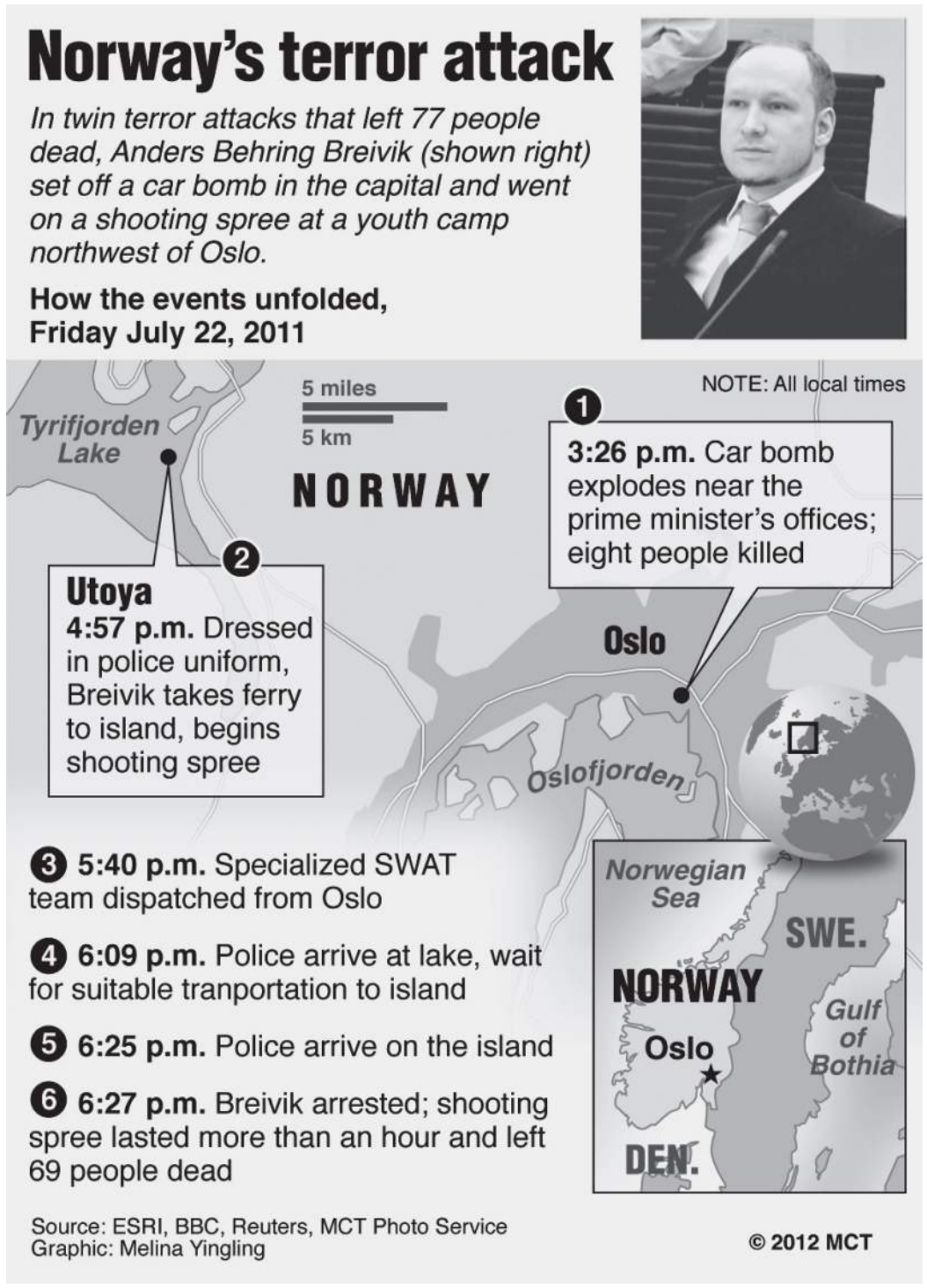
"It was meant to be used as a very powerful psychological weapon," he said.

Brundtland's adviser, Jon Moerland, told The Associated Press she would have no comment about Breivik's claim. A Labor Party prime minister for 10 years, Brundtland later headed the World Health Organization and was appointed as a U.N. climate change envoy in 2007.

Breivik said his original plans were to set off three bombs in Oslo, including at the royal palace, but building just one fertilizer bomb turned out to be "much more difficult than I thought."

His preferred targets for the shooting massacre were an annual conference of Norwegian journalists or the Labor Party's annual meeting. But he couldn't get prepared in time, so he decided to strike the summer retreat of the Labor Party's youth wing.

Breivik said he had expected to be confronted by police when he left Oslo for Utoya island, armed with a handgun and a rifle—both named after Norse gods.


Norway's terror attack
In twin terror attacks that left 77 people dead, Anders Behring Breivik (shown right) set off a car bomb in the capital and went on a shooting spree at a youth camp northwest of Oslo.
How the events unfolded, Friday July 22, 2011
NOTE: All local times
5 miles
5 km
NORWAY
Tyrifjorden Lake
1 3:26 p.m. Car bomb explodes near the prime minister's offices; eight people killed
2 Utoya 4:57 p.m. Dressed in police uniform, Breivik takes ferry to island, begins shooting spree
Oslo
Oslofjorden
3 5:40 p.m. Specialized SWAT team dispatched from Oslo
4 6:09 p.m. Police arrive at lake, wait for suitable tranportation to island
5 6:25 p.m. Police arrive on the island
6 6:27 p.m. Breivik arrested; shooting spree lasted more than an hour and left 69 people dead
Norwegian Sea
SWE.
NORWAY
Oslo
Gulf of Bothia
DEN.
Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2012 MCT

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali junta: 22 detainees released after outcry

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—The junta that seized power in a coup last month announced late Thursday that it had released 22 people whose arrests earlier this week had prompted international criticism. The arrest of senior politicians and military personnel took place even though Mali now has a civilian president and prime minister. Those opposed to the coup said the arrests showed that the soldiers who carried out the coup were not ready to hand over power. In a statement issued late Thursday, Col. Diamou Keita said he was informing "national and international public opinion" of the detainees' release.

Guinea-Bissau junta gives 2-year timeframe

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP)—Guinea-Bissau's military leaders said Thursday they had agreed on a candidate to lead a transitional government, though the proposed two-year timeframe for organizing new elections after last week's coup was unlikely to appease the international community. Manuel Serifo Nhamajo, who has served as vice president of the National Assembly, was chosen by junta authorities and the opposition parties who took part in the process. The overthrown ruling party was not involved and later said it "rejects any government stemming from a coup d'etat." In New York, an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Thursday heard calls for deployment of a U.N. force from the foreign minister in the country's ousted government and the representative of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Clinton urges tougher UN pressure on Syria

PARIS (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Thursday for the U.N. Security Council to adopt an arms embargo and other tough measures against Syria to try to halt 13 months of bloodshed, but she acknowledged such diplomatic actions would likely be vetoed.

Clinton's comments to Western and Arab diplomats from the so-called "Friends of Syria" group came as the head of the United Nations accused Syrian President Bashar Assad of failing to honor a peace plan that went into effect a week ago.

In a transcript of her remarks on the State Department's website, Clinton stopped short of calling for outside military intervention in Syria—something there is little to no foreign appetite for—but said it was time to impose more consequential measures on Assad's regime.

"We have to keep Assad off balance by leaving options on the table," she told the gathering of 16 top diplomats.

Clinton's address suggested the U.S. wanted the "Friends of Syria" group to more actively consider contingency plans if the peace plan by U.N. and Arab League envoy Kofi Annan fell apart. Although U.S. policy has amounted to an acknowledgment that Assad is unlikely to be dislodged, the U.N. resolution Clinton seeks could strengthen Syrian rebels fighting his regime.

"We need to start moving very vigorously in the Security Council for a Chapter 7 sanctions resolution, including travel, financial sanctions, an arms embargo, and the pressure that that will give us on the regime to push for compliance with Kofi Annan's six-point plan," Clinton said, referring to a resolution under the U.N. Charter that would be militarily enforceable.

Any attempt to push for U.N. sanctions on Syria would likely meet resistance from Syrian allies Russia and China, which hold vetoes in the Security Council. Moscow and Beijing have already twice shielded Syria from U.N. sanctions over Assad's crackdown on a popular uprising that is estimated to have left 9,000 people dead and led refugees to pour into neighboring countries.

Clinton said she'd laid out the case for Security Council action earlier Thursday to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whom she said "has recognized that we are not in a static situation but a deteriorating one."

At the Paris meeting, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the "Friends of Syria" group believes Annan's plan is the "last chance" for Syria to avoid civil war. But he didn't rule out the possibility of tougher action at the Security Council, including "in the direction that Madame Clinton indicated."

The prospect of military action, however faint, remained in some minds in Paris. Foreign Minister Saad-Eddine El-Othmani of Morocco, whose country holds a Security Council seat, said: "We hope the Kofi Annan plan works to avoid this (possible) military intervention."

Earlier, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Syria was not honoring the cease-fire, which took effect last week, and that violence was escalating. Syrian activists said regime forces took control of a southern town and shot at activists in another soon after international observers left.

Young Style

Should teachers and students be Facebook friends?

NEW YORK (AP)—Should students and teachers ever be friends on Facebook? School districts across the country, including the nation's largest, are weighing that question as they seek to balance the risks of inappropriate contact with the academic benefits of social networking.

At least 40 school districts nationwide have approved social media policies. Schools in New York City and Florida have disciplined teachers for Facebook activity, and Missouri legislators recently acquiesced to teachers' objections to a strict statewide policy.

In the New York cases, one teacher friended several female students and wrote comments including "this is sexy" under their photos, investigators said. A substitute teacher sent a message to a student saying that her boyfriend did not "deserve a beautiful girl like you."

Such behavior clearly oversteps boundaries, but some teachers say social media—in particular Facebook—can be a vital educational resource if used appropriately, especially because it's a primary means of communication for today's youngsters.

"Email is becoming a dinosaur," said David Roush, who teaches media communications and television production at a Bronx high school. "Letters home are becoming a dinosaur. The old methods of engaging our students and our parents are starting to die."

New York Chancellor Dennis Walcott plans to release social media guidelines this month, saying recently that teachers "don't want to be put in a situation that could either compromise them or be misinterpreted."

Roush does not accept students as friends on his personal Facebook page but has created a separate profile to communicate with them—something that runs afoul of Facebook rules restricting users to a single profile. He used the page to get the word out quickly about a summer internship on a cable-access show, and a student who learned about it from the Facebook post won it.

"If I would have emailed him, if I had tried calling him, he never would have got it," Roush said.

AP

Nkomo Morris, a teacher at Brooklyn's Art and Media High School, works on her classroom computer on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in New York.

Nkomo Morris, who teaches English and journalism at a high school in Brooklyn, said she has about 50 current and former students as Facebook friends. That could be a problem if the new rules instruct teachers not to friend students.

In that event, "I'd send out a massive message, and I would unfriend them," Morris said.

In the meantime, Morris manages her privacy settings so neither current nor former students see her personal information but do see posts about current events. She also lets students know whether something on their Facebook pages raises a red flag, such as sexual content.

"They're not always as savvy as I am," Morris said. "They haven't really grasped the level of formality out in the real world."

Efforts like New York's have been subject to legal wrangling and resistance from teachers and their advocates.

Missouri legislators last year passed a law that barred teachers from using websites that allow "exclusive access" with students 18 years old or younger. Teachers complained that they would be banned from Facebook and Twitter.

A judge granted an injunction, declaring that the law "would have a chilling effect" on free-speech rights. The legislature then repealed the restrictions and passed a new law directing school districts to develop their own policies.

Some districts adopted a model policy by the Missouri School Boards Association, decreeing that staff members must use district-approved devices when communicating electronically with students. The guidelines are intended to make it easier for supervisors to monitor teacher-student interactions.

The Missouri State Teachers Association believes some of the local policies are too restrictive. Spokesman Todd Fuller said the association will support its members if they are disciplined under those new rules.

"We're prepared to deal with the first issue where a teacher's rights are being infringed," he said.

In New York City, a United Federation of Teachers spokesman said the union would not comment without seeing the district's new guidelines.

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said she hopes the new policy considers First Amendment rights as well as "the enormous potential for benefiting students' education that is represented by technology."

Musical theater teacher Charles Willis was suspended in 2010 from Braden River High School in Florida for friending more than 100 students on Facebook and for allegedly posting sexually suggestive images and acronyms for profane words. He is now in a non-classroom job at another school, said John Bowen, a school board attorney.

The district still does not have a formal policy on social media use by teachers but is working on one, a district spokeswoman said.

Willis' lawyer did not return a call from The Associated Press, but in comments to the Bradenton Herald in March, he noted that students aren't innocents. "For anyone who says that a teacher shouldn't curse in front of students, I say they haven't been on a football field or in the dugout in a baseball game," he told the newspaper. "If you could go incognito in those settings and somehow gather audio, you might be surprised at what is said."

Doctoral research at the University of Southern California found 41 districts nationwide that have approved social media policies.

Under a policy approved by the school board in Muscogee County, Ga., in November, school employees are "strongly discouraged" from allowing students access to personal websites. Districts in Tampa, Fla., and Norton, Mass., also have wrestled with the issue.

Nancy Willard, author of "Cyber Savvy: Embracing Digital Safety and Civility," believes school districts should set up their own online environments and use tools like Gaggle.net and ePals.com, which have been designed for educational purposes. There is also Edmodo, a Facebook-like network for teachers and students.

The problem with Facebook, she said, is that it was set up for socializing.

"On Facebook, flirting is encouraged," she said. "You are encouraged to post your relationship status and your relationship interests. That's not appropriate for a relationship between teachers and students."

James Giordano, a guidance counselor at a Bronx high school, said that he makes a habit of waiting about four years after a student has graduated to friend one and that he's glad the district is discussing the issue.

"I hope that they distinguish between personal Facebook pages and pages that are professional," he said. "It would be a shame if Facebook altogether was banned from use by educators, because it's a valuable resource."

Young Americans less likely to drive

By JOAN LOWY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Driving is becoming so last century.

Since the end of World War II, getting a driver's license has been a rite of passage for teens, but that's less and less the case. The share of people in their teens, 20s and 30s with driver's licenses has dropped significantly over the past three decades, not only the United States, but also in some other wealthy nations with a high proportion of Internet users, transportation researchers have found.

One possible explanation: Virtual contact through the Internet and other electronic means is reducing the need for face-to-face visits among young people, researchers say.

From 1983 to 2008, the share of 16- to 39-year-olds with driver's licenses declined markedly, with the greatest decreases among drivers in their late teens and early 20s, according to a study at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute in Ann Arbor. About 69 percent of 17-year-olds had a driver's license in 1983. By 2008, that had dropped to 50 percent. Among Americans ages 20 to 24 in 1983, nearly 92 percent had driver's licenses. Twenty-five years later, it was 82 percent.

The older the age group, the less dramatic the declines, the Michigan study found. But even among 35- to 39-year-olds, there was a 3.2 percent decline in the share of licensed drivers.

More recent data from the Federal Highway Administration indicates the trend has continued, according to a report released Thursday by the Frontier Group, an environmental organization, and the consumer-oriented U.S. PIRG Education Fund. The share of 20- to 34-year-olds without a driver's license decreased from 89.6 percent in 2000 to 84.3 percent in 2010, the report said.

Michael Sivak, co-author of the Michigan studies, also confirmed the continuing decline.

There are likely several factors behind the trend: a difficult economy for young workers, the high cost of buying and maintaining a car and a migration of young adults toward large cities, where there are more alternatives to driving, Sivak said. There also is evidence that social networking may be reducing the need to for face-to-face contacts, he said.

In countries where "more people use the Internet, there is a lower proportion of drivers," Sivak said.

A recent study in 14 countries found seven of them had experienced a similar decrease in the share of young people with driver's licenses: Sweden, Norway, Great Britain, Canada, Japan, South Korea and Germany.

Compared to the other countries that didn't experience a decline, the study found four characteristics common to the countries where young people are driving less: They are wealthier, a high share of the population is older, a high share of the population lives in very large cities and a high share of the population uses the Internet.

There isn't enough information to say for certain that teens and younger adults are replacing trips with social networking and other Internet usage, but "there is strong data supporting this hypothesis," Sivak said. The institute's research is paid for with federal, state and auto industry contributions.

Carmakers have been aware of the trend for about five years, said Gloria Bergquist, vice president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. It's one reason the industry is looking toward markets in Asia for growth, rather than in the U.S. and Europe, she said.

"For generations, the automobile has typified freedom," Bergquist said. "At 16, many people wanted to get their driver's license because that was the way people connected with their friends." Now, she said, "We're seeing people connect through their iPhones. That's their primary motivation—they want to be in touch with their friends, so they are less focused on buying a vehicle."

Not surprisingly, the number of miles young Americans drive every year has also been declining as measured by the Transportation Department's National Household Travel Survey. From 2001 to 2009, the annual number of vehicle miles traveled by drivers 16 to 34 years old decreased from 10,300 miles to 7,900 miles per capita—a drop of 23 percent, Thursday's report said.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

SQUARE OFF! You are asked to insert missing numbers from 1-25, both inclusive, in blank squares of the diagram at right so that the total of each horizontal and vertical (but not diagonal) row of five squares will add up to 65.

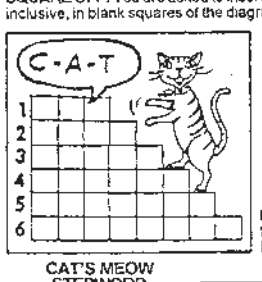
Starter clue: Missing numbers in top horizontal row are 12 and 18, but not necessarily in that order.

See how long it takes you to puzzle out the answer.

Time limit: Five minutes

22		8		5
	21		16	
6		13		17
	7		10	
20		9		19

Across: top row 22, 18, 8, 12, 5; next 3, 21, 24, 15, 1; next 6, 4, 13, 25, 17; next 14, 7, 11, 10, 23; bottom 20, 15, 9, 2, 19



CAT'S MEOW STEPWORD

PLACE the word CAT in the top row above, and then add a letter in each successive step, rearranging letters as necessary, to form new words in accord with the following definitions:

1. "Meow," says this pet (fill in—CAT).
2. Playbill listing.
3. Golfer transports.
4. Roll-'em-wheel found on furniture.
5. Improves a sentence.
6. Top-of-the-line fright level.

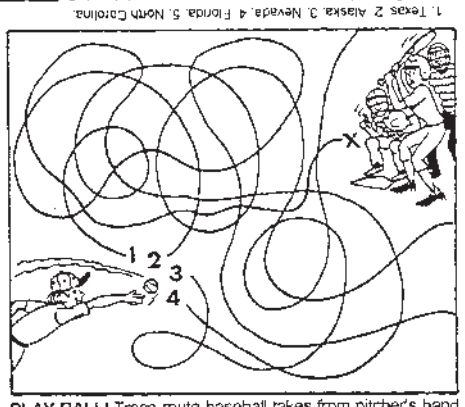
Remember, one letter is added in each step to create a new word.

Time limit for this exercise is two minutes.

1. Cat, 2. Cast, 3. Cants, 4. Caster, 5. Recasts, 6. Scarf-est.

MENTAL STATES! How fast can you unscramble names of the following states. 1. TASEX. 2. SALAKA. 3. VENADA. 4. DARFOIL. 5. ARNTHOROILCAN. No fair peeking below.

1. Texas 2. Alaska, 3. Nevada, 4. Florida, 5. North Carolina.



PLAY BALL! Trace route baseball takes from pitcher's hand to home plate, above. Which of four paths does it travel?

WINNING KICK! What a thrill it is to win. Colors: 1—Red. 2.—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green, 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple. 9—Dk. blue. 10—Black. 11—Lavender.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

SPACEMEN

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible (wosome. Seen, oamp.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was British doctor and author Alec Bourne who made the following sage observation: "It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducated."

■ In 2007, a world record was set off the coast of Brazil when a single wave was caught by 84 surfers.

■ Have you ever heard of a book called "Never Again" by Doug Nufer? Probably not—it's not on any bestseller lists and hasn't been reviewed by any notable critics. It's quite possibly unique in literary history, however; in its entire 192 pages, not a single word—even basic words such as a, an, the, of and for—is used twice.

■ If you were to stack up a million $1 bills, they would weigh about one ton.

■ The Twist dance craze in the 1960s changed the culture in America and spread around the world. Most people don't realize, though, that the song "The Twist," which started the fad, wasn't originally sung by Chubby Checker, though he was the one who sent the single up the charts and has since been irrevocably associated with the dance. The song was originally written and performed by an R&B singer named Hank Ballard. A deejay in Baltimore saw teenagers dancing to Ballard's song and called Dick Clark, host of "American Bandstand." Clark loved it and invited Ballard to perform the song on the show, but it didn't work out. Instead, Clark found someone else to perform the song: Ernest Evans, who changed his name to Chubby Checker. It made his career.

■ Colonel Sanders started selling chicken when he was 65 years old, and his only goal was to make $1,000 a month.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or the fourteenth."—George Burns

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MAGIC MAZE ● THINGS THAT EXPLODE

E	D	A	N	E	R	G	J	H	F	C	A	Y	P	W
U	N	R	O	C	P	O	P	R	C	P	N	A	E	L
J	H	F	D	D	B	S	T	Z	A	X	C	V	T	T
R	B	Q	O	M	E	K	K	A	N	G	I	H	I	F
D	B	M	Z	S	U	P	E	R	N	O	V	A	M	Y
W	V	B	O	I	L	E	R	I	O	O	T	R	A	Q
O	N	L	K	B	I	H	T	O	N	W	T	F	N	D
C	A	Z	X	W	V	S	U	S	T	R	E	E	Y	Q
O	N	O	I	T	A	L	U	P	O	P	N	R	D	N
O	N	A	C	L	O	V	M	E	L	I	S	S	I	M
S	S	O	B	Y	R	G	N	A	M	K	J	I	H	F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Angry boss	Cannon	Grenade	Supernova
Blasting cap	Detonator	Mine	Torpedo
Boiler	Dynamite	Missile	Volcano
Bomb	Fireworks	Population	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		×		21
×		+		×	
	×		−		17
−		÷		−	
	+		×		20
23		7		19	

1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

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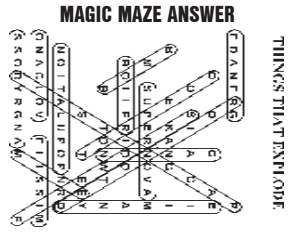
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



THINGS THAT EXPLODE

GO FIGURE ANSWER

8	−	1	×	3	21
×		+		×	
4	×	6	−	7	17
−		÷		−	
9	+	1	×	2	20
		19		7	23

Is human remedy safe for dogs?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Our dog, "Kerry," has pigmentary keratitis, and our vet prescribed tacrolimus and gentamycin solutions, which are very expensive. Instead, we are trying Similasan dry eye relief in Kerry's eyes. Is this safe to use? It seems to be working. —C. Tobias

DEAR C.: Pigmentary keratitis can be difficult to treat, and often is chronic in many dogs. According to vision4pets.com, this clouding of the cornea is caused by chronic inflammation stemming from a number of possible issues, such as constant irritation from hairs, decreased tears, an incomplete blink reflex, abnormally shaped eyelids or very prominent eyes—such as those seen in pugs and other short-faced breeds.

Because it's chronic, Kerry likely must be treated with eyedrop solutions like the ones you mentioned, and they are indeed often expensive.

Using Similasan may be one option. According to justanswer.com's veterinary section, while this dry-eye treatment is normally for humans, it can be applied to your dog's eyes two or three times a day. The website didn't find Similisan to be very effective, but if it's working for Kerry, then it's worth a try. Just be sure to tell Kerry's vet that you're using it so that he can monitor its effectiveness and make sure that it's safe for your dog.

As far as using it long term, definitely consult the vet. Treating pigmentary keratitis properly is important, because not only does it make your dog more comfortable, it also slows or prevents the pigmentation of the cornea, which can cause vision loss.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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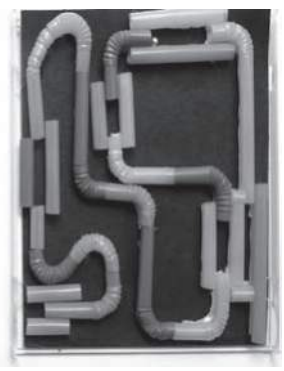
Amazing travel maze game

"Please turn off all electronic devices," announces the flight attendant as the door is locked shut on the aircraft taking you and your kids to your destination. No longer tethered to gadgets and gizmos, you are officially an unplugged family. Now it's time for real, live entertainment. Take advantage of the incredible view through the frame of your seat window as your plane banks over your departure city. No matter how many times you've flown, it's always a new adventure to catch the scene below. Your kids may squeal, "Where's our house? Is that the Mississippi River? Wow, look at all the cars on the freeway during rush hour!" Not even Disney makes a ride like this.

When you soar above the clouds, pull out this handheld toy and let it keep you entertained until the peanuts and pretzels arrive on your tray table. It's a maze made using simple supplies including atinybead, bendable straws for barriers, and a plastic CD case.



Here's how to make a maze toy before your trip:

1. Open a CD case and remove the contents. Cover the bottom of the case with a sheet of heavy construction paper or craft foam. Cut to size and glue in place.

2. Be maze architects. Set the CD case in front of you. Determine where the "START" entry point and final goal will be near the bottom and make dots with a marker as a guide for construction, or simply write "START" at the top and "FINISH" at the bottom of the game board. To create a path for the game, sketch a route on the board with a pen from "START" to "FINISH."

3. Arrange different cut pieces of bendable straw lengths on the game board using the drawing as a guide. Include several dead ends along the way for a challenging course, and leave ample space for the size of the bead you choose to roll through the course. When you are satisfied with your design, glue the straw segments in place. Let dry.

4. To play, set a bead at "START," snap the case closed and let it roll. For an extra challenge, time the contestants with a stopwatch. When you really get the hang of it, try going through the maze without looking, using verbal cues from siblings, or Mom and Dad.

Extra idea: Construct the game with a tiny bead that goes through the bendable straws instead of around them.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

By PAUL GORES
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Ship cabins inspire home design

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—When pondering how to construct smaller homes that young adults and renters could afford, home builder Tom Hignite turned his attention from the land to the sea. Cruise ships, to be exact.

He studied how the cabins in cruise ships were able to shoehorn essentials of living into a small space, then figured out ways to incorporate some elements—such as built-in bunk beds and wooden lockers instead of closets—into a house containing a little more than 1,000 square feet.

The result is what Hignite, owner of Miracle Homes, calls the "Mi-Pad"—a home with three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and a fireplace for as little as $89,000.

"They're contemporary in look," Hignite said. "They are little bit more in size than a garage. But they're extraordinarily compact, using cruise ship technology and cruise ship design architecture to create cabins instead of bedrooms. Some of the bedrooms are 6 feet by 9 feet and they sleep two."

JEFF SAINLAR/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT

Miracle Homes is developing tiny, 1,000-sq-ft homes Miracle Homes' owner, Tom Hignite, calls the homes Mi-Pads to appeal to first-time homebuyers. They'll sell for $90,000 and they use what Hignite calls a "cruise ship design" that allows the owners to cram a lot of stuff into little space. Here, construction workers put together a ranch style home.

While a far cry from the roomy McMansions that sprang up during the housing bubble of the last decade, Hignite's houses pack lots of amenities in a small space. One model includes a 10-foot-by-12-foot attic play loft for children. Master bedrooms are shaped to handle queen-size beds. High ceilings help to blunt the smallness of the homes, which, facing the road, are only 26.5 feet wide. Patios are out the back door.

Although construction of houses the size of the Mi-Pad was common during the 1950s in Milwaukee and many suburbs, houses got bigger and bigger in the years that followed. Now, such huge homes have become harder to sell in a weak housing market and in an atmosphere of high unemployment and wide-scale foreclosures.

There is no shortage of existing homes for sale in today's market. Houses selling for less than $100,000 often are foreclosed properties that need a lot of work.

"We kind of looked at repo prices and decided to create a product line that would compete with that sort of repo price area of $90,000 to $150,000—and get you a new home," Hignite said.

The final cost of a Mi-Pad varies depending on what's included and where the lot is located. One model can be developed to have five bedrooms, Hignite said.

"These are targeted at renters. There's a one-car attached garage," Hignite said.

"They are meant for people who have a no-car garage right now," he quipped. "There's a large marketplace in rentals that could segue into this for the same cost as rent."

Mike Ruzicka, president of the Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors, said Hignite may be on to something.

"It sounds like he might fill a niche," Ruzicka said.

Ruzicka said construction of such small homes presents a "back to the future" scenario because small homes were built en masse in the post World War II era. They could be an alternative by offering an all-new product instead of a foreclosed property that may need repairs, he said.

Not every community welcomes small homes, but Hignite said he's found that around Milwaukee, Mount Pleasant, Belgium and West Bend are among those that do. Because of the Mi-Pad's small size, he said, "they work well on urban lots" as well.

"There are little pockets around that allow it," he said.

Hignite has been known among southeastern Wisconsin homebuilders for sometimes quirky innovations. Previous high-end models have included a movie theater and themed children's bedrooms, for example.

Hignite made headlines six years ago when he hired almost a dozen laid-off animation artists from Walt Disney Co. to create Miracle Studios, which intended to make TV commercials and a feature film starring his company's mascot, Miracle Mouse. The studio at his Richfield, Wis., headquarters has shrunk to "one or two" artists, Hignite said, but there still are plans to produce the movie.

"Of course our main business is still home building, and everybody has a passion beyond their main passion or job," Hignite said.

The Mi-Pad houses on Gates Street in Mount Pleasant, Wis.—which include extra features and finished spaces beyond the base-price models—are the only two in existence so far, Hignite said. He wants to see if they catch on before building any more on speculation.

"It's a launch, and we're looking to see whether the public will accept it, because there haven't been 1,000-square-foot houses built in many years," he said.

Locating source of toilet leak

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: The other day I noticed a small puddle of water at the base of the toilet. I wiped it up, only to notice the next day that the puddle was back. It's clean water so I think it's a leak from the tank, but I can't find any visible drips. The tank itself tends to sweat a bit, so I can't pinpoint where the water is coming from. Should I call in a plumber?—Christine H., Toledo, Ohio

A: Try a few more things to try and pinpoint the source of the problem. Visually check the tank and the bowl for cracks—most toilets are pretty sturdy, so it's unusual for them to crack for no reason, but do check. The tank is more likely to crack, and if so, it needs to be completely replaced. At least it's easier than replacing the bowl.

If you don't find a crack, check the shutoff valve (usually what looks like a faucet handle jutting from the wall below and behind the toilet) and its attached inlet tube for leaks. Flush the toilet so that the tank begins filling, and observe the inlet components. You may also need to run your hand along the valve, inlet tube and the inlet connection at the bottom of the tank, checking if any water is leaking and running down the inlet tube or the back of the toilet, out of sight.

Next, test for a silent leak to confirm whether the leak is happening in the tank or not. Take the tank top off. Flush the toilet and let the tank refill completely. Then, take a crayon or wax pencil and mark the high-water point with a small line. Walk away for 10 minutes, come back and see if the water is still at that point or has gone down. If it has fallen below the line, mark the new water point and leave it for another 10 minutes. Check again to see if the water level continues to fall.

If the tank is leaking, check some possible sources of the leak. First, make sure the flapper valve at the bottom of the tank is completely closed. This is one of the biggest causes of a slow leak from a tank—although it doesn't explain the water on the floor, as the water leaks through the flapper valve into the toilet bowl. Next, check the seal at the base of the flush assembly, and any other visible seal, for deterioration.

Finally, consider that small amount of condensation on the tank. Could it be the cause of the puddle? Try insulating the interior of the tank, or sliding a tank cover over the outside (both available at home improvement stores) to reduce the condensation.

Once you've eliminated all the smaller reasons for the puddle of water on the floor, it's time to look at a more serious possibility: that the seal between the base of the toilet and the floor has begun to fail. It's not a particularly difficult or time-consuming repair, but the toilet will have to be lifted off the base in order for the wax ring, which acts as the main sealant, to be replaced. If you don't have much experience with toilet repairs, this is where a plumber would come in.

HOME TIP: To keep the seals and other parts of a flush assembly in top shape for years, avoid placing a bleach-based toilet cleaner cake in the tank. Bleach can corrode the assembly components.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Spring Garden Saute

With its bright colors and flavors, this warm dish of spring vegetables tastes even better than it looks.

2 pounds asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
8 ounces sugar snap peas, strings removed
1 tablespoon margarine or butter
1 pound radishes, each cut into quarters
Salt and pepper
4 tablespoons snipped fresh chives

1. Heat large covered saucepot of salted water to boiling on high. Fill large bowl with ice water; set aside. To saucepot, add asparagus and snap peas; cook 4 minutes. Drain vegetables; cool in bowl of ice water. Drain vegetables well.

2. Meanwhile, in 12-inch skillet, heat margarine on medium until melted. Add radishes, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper; cook 10 minutes or until tender-crisp. Transfer to bowl; keep warm.

3. To same skillet, add asparagus, snap peas, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper; cook 5 minutes or until tender-crisp, stirring occasionally. Stir in 2 tablespoons chives.

4. Transfer to serving bowl; arrange radishes around edge. Sprinkle with remaining chives. Makes 10 side-dish servings.

TIP: Asparagus and snap peas can be cooked through step 1 up to one day ahead. Place in plastic storage bag and refrigerate until ready to use.

ASPARAGUS AVAILABILITY: Almost year-round

PEAK SEASON: March, April and May

BUYING TIPS: Look for bright-green, firm, crisp stalks with compact tips and no trace of brown or rust. Buy evenly sized stalks for uniform cooking.

TO STORE: Asparagus is very perishable. Stand the stalks in 1/2 inch of cold water in a container. Refrigerate up to two days.

TO PREPARE: Hold the base of each asparagus spear in one hand and bend back the stalk; the end will break off at the spot where the stalk becomes too tough to eat. Discard the tough stem. Rinse well to remove any sand. Some cooks like to peel asparagus, but this is a matter of personal choice. Leave asparagus whole or cut diagonally into 1- to 2-inch pieces.

TO COOK: Asparagus can be boiled, steamed, stir-fried, roasted or grilled. Serve hot, room temperature or cold. To boil, in a 12-inch skillet, heat 1 inch of water to boiling over high heat. Add asparagus and 1/2 teaspoon salt; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to medium-high and cook, uncovered, until barely tender, 5 to 10 minutes (depending on the thickness of asparagus); drain. If serving cold, rinse under cold running water to stop cooking; drain again.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

Life & Style

Men at Work musician Greg Ham found dead

SYDNEY (AP)—Greg Ham, a member of the Australian band Men at Work whose saxophone and flute punctuated its smash 1980s hits, was found dead in his Melbourne home on Thursday.

Police said the death did not appear to be suspicious, though the cause was not immediately known. A friend who found Ham's body said he hadn't been the same since 2010, when a court ruled that his signature flute riff from the song "Down Under" had been stolen from a classic campfire song.

Victoria state police confirmed that the deceased was the 58-year-old resident of Ham's house but did not identify him by name, in keeping with local practice. Ham was 58 and neighbors said he was the lone occupant of the house.

Men at Work topped charts around the world in 1983 with the songs "Down Under" and "Who Can it Be Now?" and won a Grammy Award that year for Best New Artist.

Frontman Colin Hay issued a statement expressing deep love for Ham, whom he met in 1972 when they were seniors in high school. Hay recalled decades of shared experiences with Ham—from appearing on "Saturday Night Live," to flying through dust storms over the Grand Canyon, to getting lost in the rural Australian countryside.

"We played in a band and conquered the world together," Hay said. "I love him very much. He's a beautiful man. ... He's here forever."

Two concerned friends who had not heard from Ham in some time found his body after going to check on him, police said.

Local pharmacist David Nolte, who had known Ham for 30 years, told The Associated Press on Friday that he and another friend found his body. He said the musician's cats were outside the house and appeared unfed, and all calls had gone to Ham's voicemail for days.

After banging on the door and calling for Ham in vain, they entered his house and found his body. Nolte checked for a pulse; there was none. He declined to elaborate on the condition of Ham's body, citing privacy reasons and the pending police investigation.

"Even though he was famous, he was a very decent, kind, humble person," Nolte said. "I'd like to remember him being a really first-rate man."

Police Detective John Potter said there was "nothing to suggest to us that it's a suspicious investigation. However, we will wait and make that assessment once we know a cause of death."

"We'll get an indication fairly quickly, but certain tests do take weeks," he said.

Ham was perhaps best known for playing the flute riff for "Down Under," which remains an unofficial anthem for Australia. But the beloved tune came under intense scrutiny in recent years after the band was accused of stealing the catchy riff from the children's campfire song "Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree."

AP

In this Feb. 22, 1983 file photo, members of "Men at Work," from left, Greg Ham, Ron Strykert, Colin Hay, Jerry Speiser and John Rees, pose with their Grammy for best new artist at the awards show in Los Angeles.

Hulu announces new series from Seth Meyers

NEW YORK (AP)—Hulu is adding to its growing slate of original programming, including a new animated series from Seth Meyers that will translate his experiences on "Saturday Night Live" to a gang of superheroes.

Meyers previewed the show, "The Awesomes," at Hulu's upfront Thursday. He and co-creator Michael Shoemaker, a producer of "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon" and formerly of "SNL," said the series will be a behind-the-scenes look at an "Avengers"-like troupe of crime-fighters.

Meyers said "The Awesomes" was based on backstage life at "SNL," where he is a head writer and Weekend Update host.

The show is planned to debut next year on Hulu, which is co-owned by Disney, News Corp. and NBCUniversal.

Hulu is also producing a series about a group of friends who play pick-up basketball from "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle" director Danny Leiner, "Are We There Yet?" writer Kenya Barris and "The Game" writer Hale Rothstein. That show, "We Got Next," will premiere later this year.

Hulu is also planning a fantasy show called "Flow" built around the urban sport of parkour, which involves running, climbing, or leaping rapidly over obstacles, and a music talent discovery show called "Don't Quit Your Daydream" that's based on the 2010 documentary by Adrian Grenier and John Loar.

Those four series add to Hulu's original programming that includes Morgan Spurlock's "A Day in the Life" and the scripted series "Battleground." The event Thursday was the first of a series of planned "newfronts" in which digital outlets present their programming to advertisers, much like the traditional TV upfronts in May.

Hulu said that in February, U.S. users watched 2.5 billion videos on the site. Earlier this week, it announced that will charge advertisers only if viewers watch a commercial in full.

Jason Crabb wins gospel music artist of the year

ATLANTA (AP)—Christian singer Jason Crabb might not have won all of the awards he was nominated under, but he certainly came away with the two most prominent categories for a male artist.

Crabb

Crabb went home with artist and male vocalist of the year awards Thursday night. The 43rd Dove Awards show for Christian and gospel music will air on April 24 for GMC, formerly the Gospel Music Channel. The awards show was held at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta for the second straight year.

"It just blows my mind," Crabb said shortly after the show. "It hasn't sunk in just yet. I'm proud to be in the family of God, and proud to be his kid. I can't believe it. I want to challenge other people and other kids this: Go after your dreams, pursue them. God is behind you."

Crabb said after winning the awards, the pressure is on to produce more quality songs.

"I have to get my `A' game on now," he said with laughter. "It makes me want to strive to do better, to live as good as I can and be an example. I'm just going to do the best that I possibly can."

Natalie Grant dethroned Francesca Battistelli, taking home female artist of the year. Grant previously won the award four straight years before Battistelli had done so for two years.

After winning her first Grammy in February, Laura Story continued her stellar year with five awards. The singer's Grammy-winning song, "Blessings," won her song of the year at the Doves.

A pregnant Story said overcoming the tough times motivated her to write many of her songs including, "Blessings."

"I would rather have written a story about winning the lottery, than write about that," Story said. There are hard times in our lives, but that's when we see God show up."

R&B soul singer Angie Stone along with gospel singers Yolanda Adams, Crystal Lewis and Karen Peck opened up the show with a choir dressed of red, singing a spirited rendition of Dottie Rambo's song "I Go To the Rock." The foursome's performance was a tribute to Whitney Houston, who died Feb. 11. Houston also sang the song in the 1996 movie, "The Preacher's Wife."

Stone, who learned about the tribute a day ago, said it was an emotional experience.

"It was hard because I learned about doing it yesterday," the singer said. "But overall, because it was for Whitney, I gave all that I could for Whitney. I'm still trying to process she is gone."

After the singer's touching performance, some humor shortly followed when co-hosts actor David Mann of Tyler Perry's sitcom "Meet the Browns" and Christian comedian Chonda Pierce took the stage. Pierce asked if Mann could introduce her at some point, and the actor sarcastically said, "I'll see what I can do," while looking away as audience members broke into laughter.

Other performers included music artists ranging from Yolanda Adams, Natalie Grant, Ruben Studdard, Mandisa to rapper Lecrae

With 'Chimpanzee' opening, 5 prime primate movies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ah, chimps. They're so cute and cuddly and furry, so much like us that we want to take them home, assign human characteristics to them and turn them into our hairy babies and pals. Sometimes that relationship can serve as the source of comedy in movies; other times, it can be downright dangerous when we get too arrogant about our place in the animal kingdom.

This week marks the annual Earth Day arrival of the latest documentary in the Disneynature series "Chimpanzee," so here's a look at five great movies about primates:

■ "King Kong" (1933): The original, of course, although there have been countless remakes and homages, including Peter Jackson's Oscar-winning 2005 version starring Naomi Watts and Adrian Brody. The gorilla is big, scary and misunderstood; the damsel in distress is blonde, beautiful and fascinated. Surely I don't have to explain to you guys why "King Kong" matters, do I? This is an instance in which use of the word "iconic" is not hyperbole. Let's just all acknowledge that and move on.

■ "Planet of the Apes" (1968): Once again, the original, although the sorta-prequel, sorta-reboot "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" from last year had its thrills and was a huge box office hit, grossing over $300 million worldwide. It's interesting to note that Andy Serkis was responsible for the performance-capture work in both the 2011 "Apes" and the 2005 "Kong"—that it takes high-tech special effects trickery to make us feel the humanity in these tormented creatures. The first "Planet of the Apes" wasn't concerned with convincing visuals; it was an allegory about racism, provided Charlton Heston with one of his most famous roles and served up one of the biggest twists in film history.

■ "Project Nim" (2011): This documentary from Oscar-winner James Marsh ("Man on Wire") takes a heartbreaking look at a science experiment gone wrong. Columbia University researchers in the 1970s took a baby chimp from his mother when he was just a few days old and whisked him away to a distant place where he knew no one. They raised him among humans, dressed him in kids' clothes, taught him sign language and even smoked pot with him. Their hope was to achieve a breakthrough in the way humans and animals communicate; their reality was far more violent and sobering.

■ "Every Which Way But Loose" (1978): Clint Eastwood shows his goofy side in one of his earliest comedies, starring as a truck driver and bare-knuckle boxer whose best friend is an orangutan named Clyde. Together the two prowl around drinking beer, bar hopping and getting into brawls. I have fond memories of watching this movie as a kid with its catch phrase, "Right turn, Clyde." It's also notable for the presence of Ruth Gordon as Eastwood's saucy, foul-mouthed mother and an extremely `70s, country-tinged theme song from Eddie Rabbitt.

■ "The Wizard of Oz" (1939): Granted, it's not really about the monkeys. And granted, I do write about "The Wizard of Oz" a lot. But the flying monkeys are seared into my brain from childhood. They're so scary, they made me cower at my mother's feet behind the coffee table during our annual holiday viewing of the film. In retrospect, no, they don't look terribly convincing. But they're functioning at the behest of the Wicked Witch of the West. And they seem to take such joy in chasing Dorothy and friends through the forest; one of them even looks like he's smiling as he kidnaps Toto. And did we mention that they can fly?

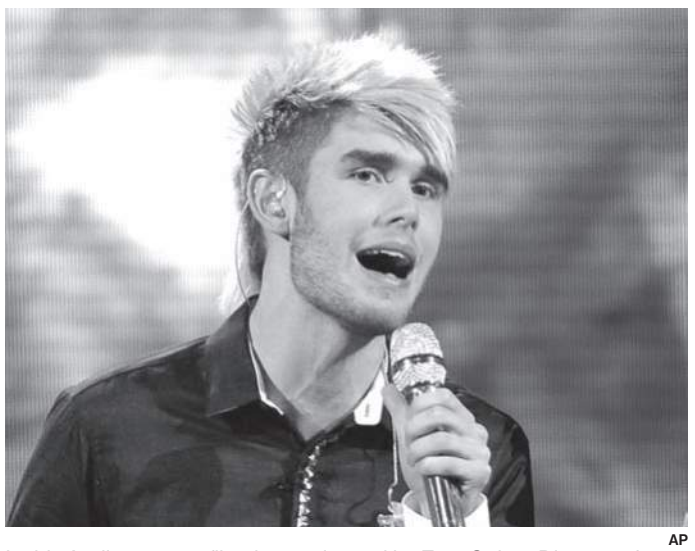
Unlikely finalist struck from 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" viewers apparently weren't caught in a romance with Colton Dixon.

The 20-year-old alt-rocker was revealed Thursday to have received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent competition. Dixon was surprisingly eliminated from "Idol" after delivering lukewarm renditions of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" and Earth Wind and Fire's "September" on Wednesday's evening of old and new tunes. It was his first time in the show's bottom three.

"I need to apologize," Dixon said. "I wasn't myself last night, and I get it."

Dixon was joined in the bottom three by Elise Testone, the rockin' 28-year-old teacher Charleston, S.C., who fizzled with Alicia Keys' "No One" and Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get it On," and soaring 18-year-old singer Hollie Cavanagh from McKinney, Texas, who redeemed herself with Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" and Dusty Springfield's "Son of a Preacher Man."



AP

In this April 11, 2012 file photo released by Fox, Colton Dixon performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

The dismissal of the Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, who sometimes used the "Idol" platform to broadcast his Christian faith, shocked the finalists, including groovy crooner 21-year-old Phillip Phillips of Leesburg, Ga. The normally jovial singer remained seated on a couch on stage with his head down and his hands clasped as Dixon performed his swan song.

"You have a huge career ahead of you," Randy Jackson told Dixon after his elimination.

The other singers remaining in the competition are spunky 18-year-old country rocker Skylar Laine of Brandon, Miss.; booming 20-year-old gospel singer Joshua Ledet of Westlake, La.; and savvy 16-year-old vocalist Jessica Sanchez of San Diego. The six remaining finalists will return to the stage Wednesday and face elimination again Thursday.

Avengers gather in London for European premiere

LONDON (AP)—Iron Man, Thor and Black Widow—or at least the actors that play them—were in London Thursday as "Marvel Avengers Assemble" held its European premiere.

Hollywood actors Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth and Scarlett Johansson, who play the heroes, were on hand at London's Vue Westfield, with Johansson saying it was nice "to actually play someone who's got a lot of conviction and who is really ready to kick some booty."

Johansson, who wore a black and scarlet floral corset, shared the red carpet with co-stars including Jeremy Renner, who plays sharp-eyed archer agent Hawkeye; Tom Hiddleston, the villain Loki; and Mark Ruffalo, who joins the superhero world as the Hulk.

AP

The cast of 'Marvel Avengers Assemble', from left to right, Mark Ruffalo, Tom Hiddleston, Robert Downey Jr, Jeremy Renner, Scarlett Johansson, Cobie Smulders, Chris Hemsworth and Clark Gregg, assemble for a group photograph ahead of the European Premiere of the film at a west London cinema, Thursday, April 19, 2012.

Hemsworth's heavily pregnant wife, Spanish actress Elsa Pataky, also attended.

Written and directed by Joss Whedon, the action adventure film follows the comic book team as they unite to fight Loki and neutralize his threat of war from another world.

The "Marvel Avengers Assemble" is being released in U.K. theaters on April 26 and in the U.S. as "The Avengers" on May 4.

Author of book about Permian football pens e-book

ODESSA, Texas (AP)—The author of a best-selling book on one West Texas high school's football season has penned an e-book focusing on his friendship with one of the team's players.

H.G. "Buzz" Bissinger's earlier book, "Friday Night Lights," focused on Odessa's 1988 Permian Panthers that lost in the state semifinals. It also took a harsh look at educational, economic and social problems in Odessa. It eventually was made into a movie and also inspired a TV show.

"After Friday Night Lights" is about Bissinger's years-long friendship with Boobie Miles, a running back who blew out his knee in a 1988 preseason scrimmage.

A news release Thursday said the legacy Bissinger cares about most from his involvement with the Permian story is his friendship with Miles.

The e-book is available at Apple's iBookstore, at Amazon, and Barnes and Nobles' BN.com.

Model Lily Cole branches into art, film, TV

British it-girl Lily Cole doesn't want to be boxed in: The successful model launched an eco-friendly clothing line, has two upcoming films and a new television series in the works.

"I quite like breaking down this conception of art as this very kind of insular space," Cole explained in a recent interview. "I've worked with a lot of artists through film as a medium... so I'd love to keep doing more within that medium. We'll see how that manifests."

The 23-year-old Vogue cover girl, who recently graduated from Cambridge with a degree in art history, will be interviewing top contemporary artists for a six-part Sky Arts series called "Lily Cole's Art Matters."

Cole

Cole also stars in Mary Harron's coming of age drama "The Moth Diaries," available now on Video on Demand and in theaters Friday. Her clothing line is called The North Circular. And in June she'll share the big screen with Charlize Theron and Kristen Stewart in the reimagined fairy tale, "Snow White and the Huntsman."

Cole considers herself lucky to have teamed with directors, like Harron, who supported her studies, environmental activism and busy modeling schedule, but admits she's not quite sure how she balanced it all.

"I don't know. I'm kind of surprised I fit it in too," she mused. ***(AP)***

Usher joins cast of off-Broadway play for 1 day

NEW YORK (AP)—Usher is heading off-Broadway.

The Grammy winner will join the cast of "Fuerza Bruta: Look Up," the fast-paced, acrobatic and unconventional play where the audience stands as performers dance and jump around. A news release says the performers "frolic in a watery world suspended just above the audience."

Usher will perform at two shows as its lead "Running Man" on April 28 at the Daryl Roth Theatre.

"Fuerza Bruta" means "brute force" in Spanish. The play was developed by Diqui James, the Argentine creator of the long-running "De La Guarda." It has played in Madrid, Berlin and Tel Aviv, and launched its Asian tour in February.

Tickets are on sale for $150 and $200.

Usher will also release his seventh album, "Looking for Myself," on June 12.

Woman ready to say so long after unwelcome kiss goodbye

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A friend's husband gave me a ride to the airport, and when I went to hug him goodbye as I have always done when we parted, he grabbed me by the arms and kissed me on the lips several times. I wasn't expecting it, and I certainly hadn't invited it. I made light of it, but it made me very uncomfortable and I don't want to see him again.

My problem is I don't know how to end my friendship with his wife. I would never tell her, and I do not wish to have this standing between us, so I'd rather just end the friendship. How should I handle this? She occasionally contacts me for lunch dates.

DISMAYED IN MANHATTAN

DEAR DISMAYED: You're lucky the wife contacts you for lunch dates only occasionally. It means she's a casual friend, which will make disengaging easier. When she calls, all you need to do is tell her you have other plans. You do not have to mention that foremost among them is avoiding any future contact with either of them because of her husband.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing "Larry" for six months, and from day one we both agreed that we do not want to be in a relationship. I'm 29 and he's 34. But over time we have developed feelings for each other. Larry is recently divorced after 10 years of marriage. He tells me he doesn't want to lose me, but it's hard for him to commit for fear of being hurt.

Larry talks to other women and goes out, while I have basically committed myself to him. He gets upset if I talk to another man. He says I'm his best friend and he's afraid a relationship would change that.

I don't know what to do anymore. Neither one of us would be OK if the other started dating, but I'm sick of waiting for him to make up his mind. Should I move on?

IN LIMBO IN COLUMBUS, IND.

DEAR IN LIMBO: Yes, you should. But not before telling Larry exactly why, because the arrangement you have right now is unfair to you. If you don't, you and Larry could wind up being "best friends" forever and nothing more.

DEAR ABBY: When my wife and I renewed our wedding vows after 25 years of marriage, I gave her a beautiful diamond band to thank her for our years together. I lost her 20 years later and put the ring aside, not knowing what to do with it.

My son had been living with a lovely girl for a couple of years. They appeared to be a perfect match, so I gave him the ring and suggested he give it to her and propose. I looked forward to their happiness and perhaps some grandchildren.

My son presented it to her, she accepted and they were married. Sadly, after three years she divorced him and they have gone their separate ways. Should I contact her and ask for the return of the ring? Abby, it's not the money ($3,500). I wanted the ring to stay in the family, and she has opted out of our family. Please advise.

NOT SURE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NOT SURE: By all means contact your former daughter-in-law and ask if she's willing to part with the ring. She may agree to give it to you or sell it to you if she still has it. However, if there has been animosity since the divorce, she may not feel inclined to be gracious—so be prepared. Once your son gave the ring to her, it became her property to do with as she wished.

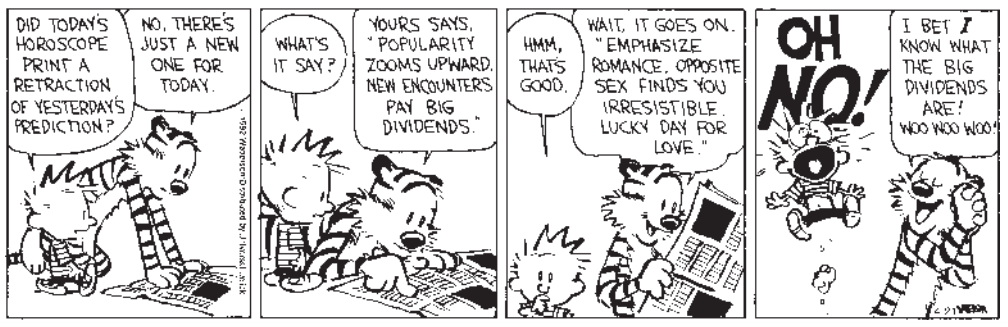
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DID TODAY'S HOROSCOPE PRINT A RETRACTION OF YESTERDAY'S PREDICTION?
NO, THERE'S JUST A NEW ONE FOR TODAY.
WHAT'S IT SAY?
YOURS SAYS, "POPULARITY ZOOMS UPWARD. NEW ENCOUNTERS PAY BIG DIVIDENDS."
HMM, THAT'S GOOD.
WAIT, IT GOES ON. "EMPHASIZE ROMANCE. OPPOSITE SEX FINDS YOU IRRESISTIBLE. LUCKY DAY FOR LOVE."
OH NO!
I BET I KNOW WHAT THE BIG DIVIDENDS ARE! WOO WOO WOO!

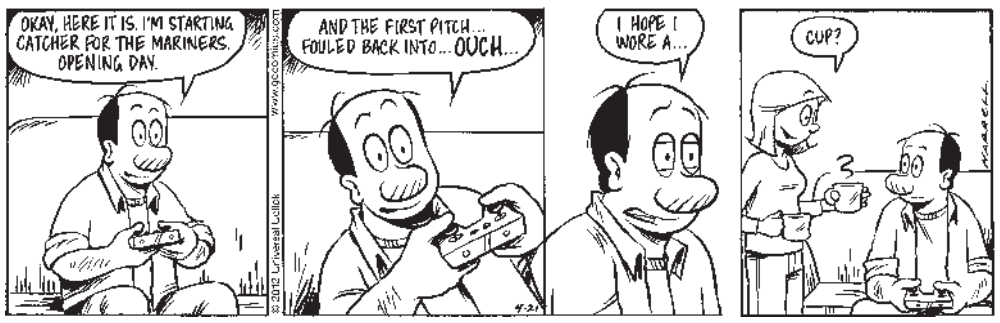
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON! I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED!
AND I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP WITH MY RANSOM NOTE
HOW DO YOU SPELL "SARDINES"?
WHEN YOU MISS NAPS, YOU SCARE ME

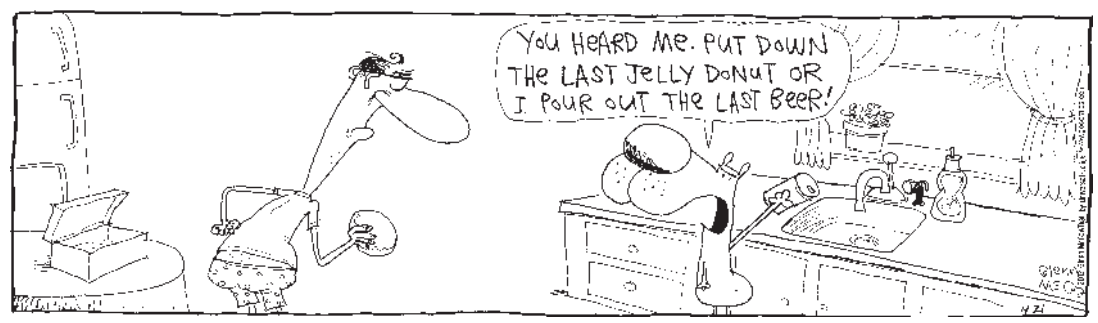
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, HERE IT IS. I'M STARTING CATCHER FOR THE MARINERS. OPENING DAY.
AND THE FIRST PITCH... FOULED BACK INTO... OUCH...
I HOPE I WORE A...
CUP?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Thick slices
6 Modeling materials
11 John le Carre spy
12 Excursion
14 Impede
15 RV
16 Scepter topper
17 Cleavage-hiding scarf
19 Shell game need
20 "So be it"
22 "You've got mail" co.
23 Bacterium
24 Suitable for singing
26 Nobility member
28 Enjoyment
30 Hearty quaff
31 Parlor pieces
35 Phi Beta —
39 Quarry
40 30-Across provider
42 Mountain lake
43 Anger
44 Wheat bundle
46 Central
47 Monkey (with)
49 Put a — on (deaden)
51 Sound system
52 Lubricate
53 Decorate
54 Dadaist Max

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1 Sleazy
2 Lithe
3 Jungfrau, for one
4 Complaint
5 Middle East nation
6 Coiled part of the inner ear
7 Waikiki wingding
8 S dispenser
9 "Hooray!"
10 Villainous looks
11 Sandbar
13 Metric measures
18 Officer of the law
21 Swell
23 Terrific
25 Prompt
27 Wapiti
29 Kidney component
31 Skewers
32 Mistakes in print
33 Abounded
34 Seek restitution
36 South American plains
37 Mass figure
38 Violinist Rieu
41 18-Down's emblem
44 Prophet
45 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
48 Expert
50 Chaps

Solution time: 27 mins.

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O	C	H	E	R		B	E	Y	O	N	C	E
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B	R	A	N	D	O		A	D	E	S	T	E
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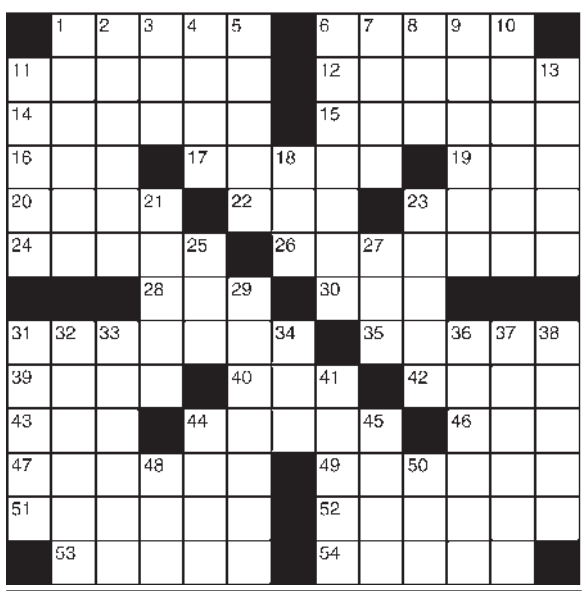
Yesterday's answer 4-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andie MacDowell, 54; Tony Danza, 61; Iggy Pop, 65; Charles Grodin, 77.

Happy Birthday: Opportunity knocks. Take advantage of any chance you get to travel, communicate or incorporate what you do best into your future plans. Networking, relocating or expanding your interests should all be at the top of your to-do list. Practical application will lead to success. Your numbers are 3, 10, 14, 21, 25, 38, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Size up your work and money situation. Take a proactive approach and turn something you enjoy doing into a part-time enterprise that will help pay your bills or allow you to save for something special. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make plans to do something you enjoy that is also constructive. The experience and knowledge you gain will help with your moneymaking decisions. Quality over quantity will make a difference. Reconnecting with someone from your past will pay off. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a closer look at your money situation before you sign up to do something you cannot afford. An honest opinion may not be what you want to hear regarding your personal life, but it's worth taking note of what's being said. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get involved in an organization, club or group that shares your belief system and you will engage in an interesting partnership with someone harboring the same goals as you. People from your past will help you get ahead now. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Step back and view your situation before you make a move that isn't appropriate. Nothing is as it appears, and there is a good chance you will overreact. Concentrate on finding out all you can to support the action or changes you want to include. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get to the point and don't leave anything undone or unsaid if you want to move forward. Travel to speak with someone in person if it will help you resolve a concern you have. The information you retrieve will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make love, not war. When it comes to having fun, focus on entertainment that includes relaxation and pampering. Good fortune will be yours if you make a decision regarding a partnership opportunity you've been given. Plan a day trip. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: A creative contribution from you and a partner will bring great results that are bound to result in a contractual agreement with someone who knows how to present and promote. A change of lifestyle is apparent. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make alterations at home that will please someone you love. Traveling or getting together with colleagues or friends from your past will lead to an interesting opportunity. Greater financial and professional stability is on the way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Fix up your residence or consider buying or selling a piece of property. You can secure your assets and stabilize your financial situation by making practical moves. Adding quality to your life will also help to lower your stress. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't underestimate the extent of a job or the lengths someone will go to in order to outdo you. Pull out all the stops and concentrate on being the best you can be. Fixing up your residence will help improve your attitude. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reconsider your current path and you will find a way to incorporate a past goal into a plan you want to put into motion in the near future. Don't let a jealous friend or lover deter you from following through with your plans. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, intense and eager. You are set in your ways.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			9			4	
1		3			5			7
				8			2	
	4							
9		8				3		6
							5	
	3			6				
7			1			9		4
	2			5			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	2	5	7	8	9	3	6
6	5	7	4	9	3	1	8	2
8	9	3	6	2	1	7	4	5
1	7	6	9	3	5	8	2	4
9	3	4	8	1	2	5	6	7
2	8	5	7	4	6	3	9	1
3	4	8	2	5	7	6	1	9
7	6	9	1	8	4	2	5	3
5	2	1	3	6	9	4	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DAVY JONES (1945-2012) **Solution: 9 letters**

D	B	D	R	A	Y	E	K	C	O	J	T	A	B	G
A	A	A	V	K	I	S	A	R	A	H	N	N	R	I
Y	N	V	C	O	S	L	E	H	G	N	I	C	A	R
D	D	I	E	E	C	V	A	P	O	L	O	I	D	L
R	M	D	I	Y	I	A	C	T	O	R	P	C	Y	S
E	E	V	O	L	J	N	L	C	Y	P	S	M	I	N
A	O	L	O	S	P	O	E	T	R	Y	R	E	C	A
M	O	N	K	E	E	S	N	A	M	T	N	O	R	F
O	W	R	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	A	W	P	C	W
C	O	M	P	O	S	E	R	U	S	B	N	H	R	K
T	H	T	I	M	S	E	N	D	O	J	I	I	C	S
I	S	A	S	R	A	C	Z	Y	A	P	T	U	A	G
S	S	A	M	O	H	T	N	E	P	E	T	E	R	N
M	A	N	C	H	E	S	T	E	R	E	L	O	D	I
E	M	O	C	E	W	E	R	E	H	G	U	A	L	S

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Actor, Band, Believer, Brady, Bunch, Chipper, Colin, Composer, Cowboy, Cute, Davey, David, Daydream, Fans, Frontman, Girl, Here We Come, Horse, Icon, Idol, Jockey, Jones, Laugh, Lead, Love, Manchester, Mania, Micky, Monkees, Movies, Nesmith, Oliver, Peter, Poem, Poetry, Point, Pop Rock, Racing, Sarah, Show, Sings, Sitcom, Solo, Talia, Thomas, Vocal, Writer, Z-Cars

Yesterday's Answer: Keyboard

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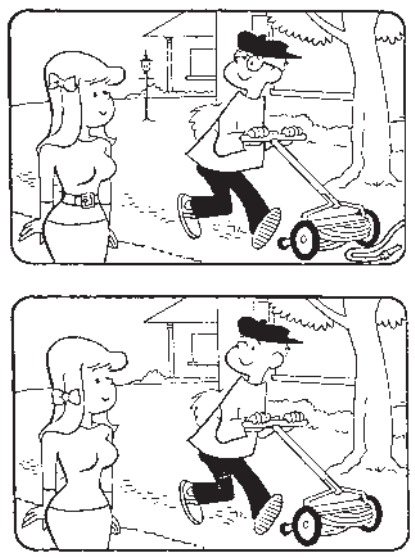
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Bow is moved. 2. Dot is missing. 3. Lamppost is missing. 4. Eyeglasses are missing. 5. Shirt is different. 6. Hose is missing.

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Wishing Well®

3	5	8	6	5	4	5	3	5	3	5	6	5
I	A	S	A	C	A	H	N	A	C	N	N	G
3	2	5	6	3	6	5	2	3	6	2	4	3
O	A	E	E	M	W	O	R	E	B	A	C	A
2	8	6	7	6	4	5	2	6	8	2	3	8
D	E	E	L	G	C	F	I	I	E	A	U	K
7	3	6	8	4	3	8	3	6	4	8	3	4
O	G	N	A	E	M	D	E	N	P	V	N	T
2	3	4	7	8	2	8	4	3	5	6	3	2
N	T	Y	O	I	T	C	O	E	S	I	D	S
5	7	5	6	4	5	2	6	2	5	4	7	4
C	K	E	N	U	N	M	G	I	E	R	T	L
2	7	5	4	5	7	8	2	4	7	4	7	7
L	O	R	I	Y	S	E	E	F	E	E	L	F

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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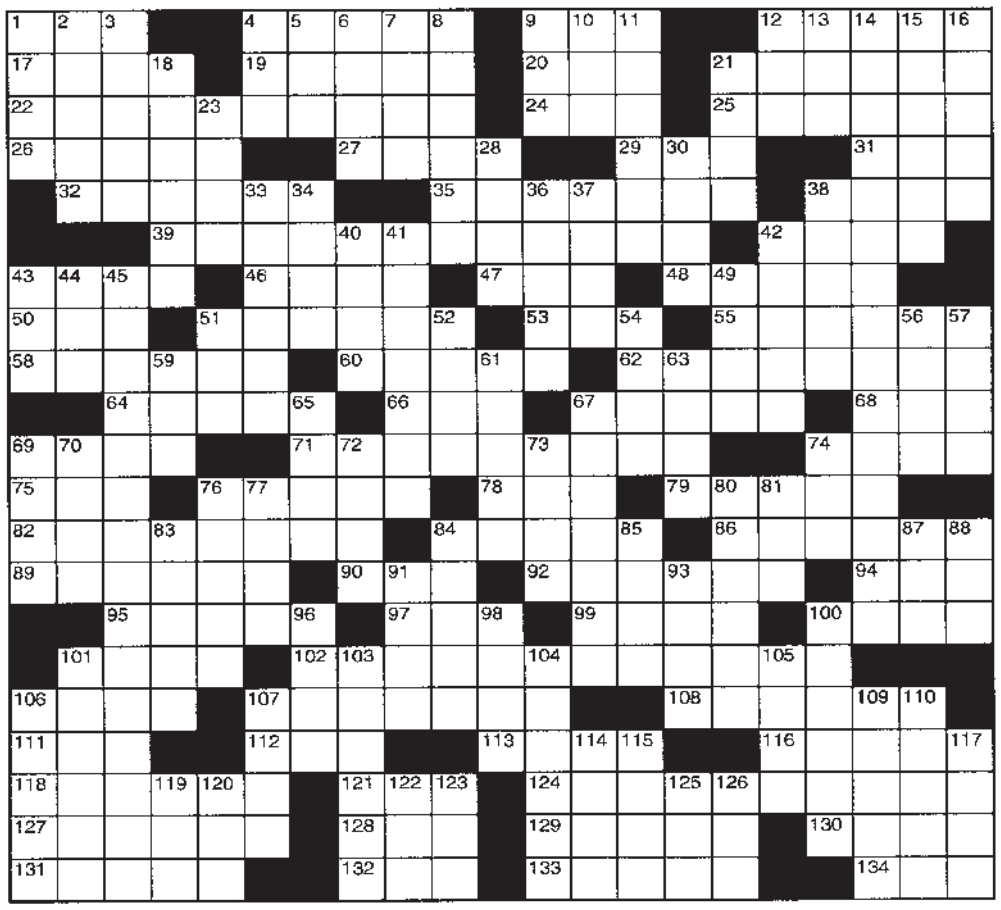
Super Crossword

WEATHER OR NOT

ACROSS
1 Collectibles, collectively
4 "Crocodile Dundee" star
9 "The — Hurt" ('59 hit)
12 Word form for "large"
17 Composer Janacek
19 Persian, presently
20 Zsa Zsa's sister
21 Mead subject
22 MISTY
24 Perfect score
25 Statistical foci
26 Vessel part
27 Utah city
29 SHAEF commander
31 Fasten a brogue
32 Lacking principles
35 Kid heaven
38 Unisex garment
39 SNOW
42 Pageant prop
43 Word with farm or frog
46 "Casablanca" character
47 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
48 Prepared to propose
50 Actress Hagen
51 Muslim title
53 Medical grp.
55 Left out
58 "Cabaret" setting
60 Feat
62 Sudden decline
64 Rover's restraint
66 Barcelona bravo
67 Turns soft
68 Compete
69 — Mawr
71 FAIR
74 Like May
75 W. Hemisphere grp.
76 Torrid and Frigid
78 Napa Valley vessel
79 Porthos' pal
82 Neighbor of Ethiopia
84 Park feature
86 Half the diameter
89 Diner patrons
90 Shaq's pack
92 Israeli coin
94 — -Locka, FL
95 Magna —
97 Terrier's tidbit
99 Part of UCLA
100 Cut a cuticle
101 Extinct bird
102 RAIN
105 Actress Schneider
107 Heebie-jeebies
108 Folklore figures
111 Burro
112 Gray matter?
113 Annie Oakley's birthplace
116 Impressive tales
118 Big name in temperance
121 Sprite
124 HURRICANE
127 Kampala's country
128 Scand. country
129 Once more
130 Faxed
131 Intrinsically
132 — milk
133 "The Haystacks" artist
134 Stephen of "The Crying Game"

DOWN
1 Charity
2 Range rope
3 Symbol
4 — nibs
5 Hosp. areas
6 Sheffield slammer
7 Frank or Francis
8 "One of These —" ('75 hit)
9 Wager
10 "— had it!"
11 '82 Attenborough film
12 Damage
13 Soul, to Sartre
14 HEAT
15 Salad veggie
16 Attack
18 — Tuesday
21 Footfall
23 Calvary inscription
28 Bit
30 Hook up with Mir
33 Indians and Indonesians
34 Soothe
36 Marina sight
37 Watch part
38 Sound
40 Sale stipulation
41 Some computers
42 '92 US Open champ
43 Bathroom fixture
44 Hwy.
45 STORM
49 TV's "Empty —"
51 Security grp.
52 A shake in the grass?
54 Draft status
56 Malicious
57 Legal document
59 Actor Cariou
61 Novocaine target
63 — podrida
65 Suggestion
67 Robert of "Ryan's Daughter"
69 Augur
70 Punjabi prince
72 Chow —
73 Gets what one basks for
74 '60s chic
76 Bernardo's boss
77 Force out
80 Claire of "Key Largo"
81 "2001" computer
83 Like some eyes
84 Freighter
85 Coop crowd
87 News org.
88 Weaken
91 Match
93 Singer Eartha
96 "Lucky Jim" author
98 "Comin' — the Rye"
100 Successful dieters
101 Medical measure
103 Pericles' home
104 Guru's grounds
105 Director Nicolas
106 ". . . the mouse — the clock"
107 Novotna of tennis
109 Metric measure
110 Tantrum
114 Othello's ensign
115 In the twinkling — eye
117 Mile., farther south
119 Office-holders
120 Lyric poem
122 London lavatory
123 Fish babies
125 "Pshaw!"
126 Bankbook abbr.



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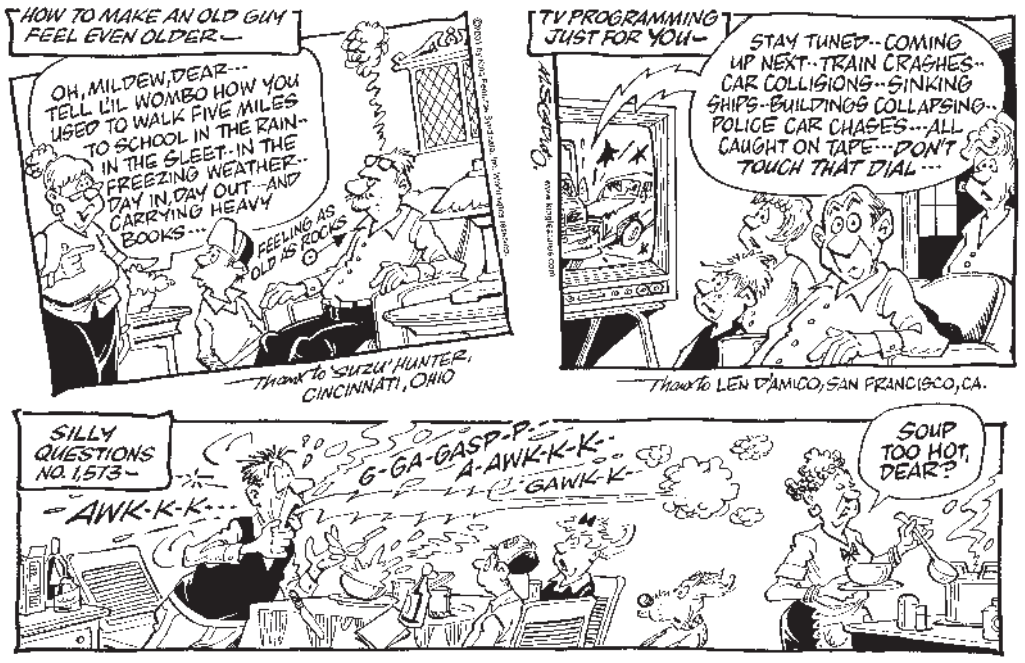
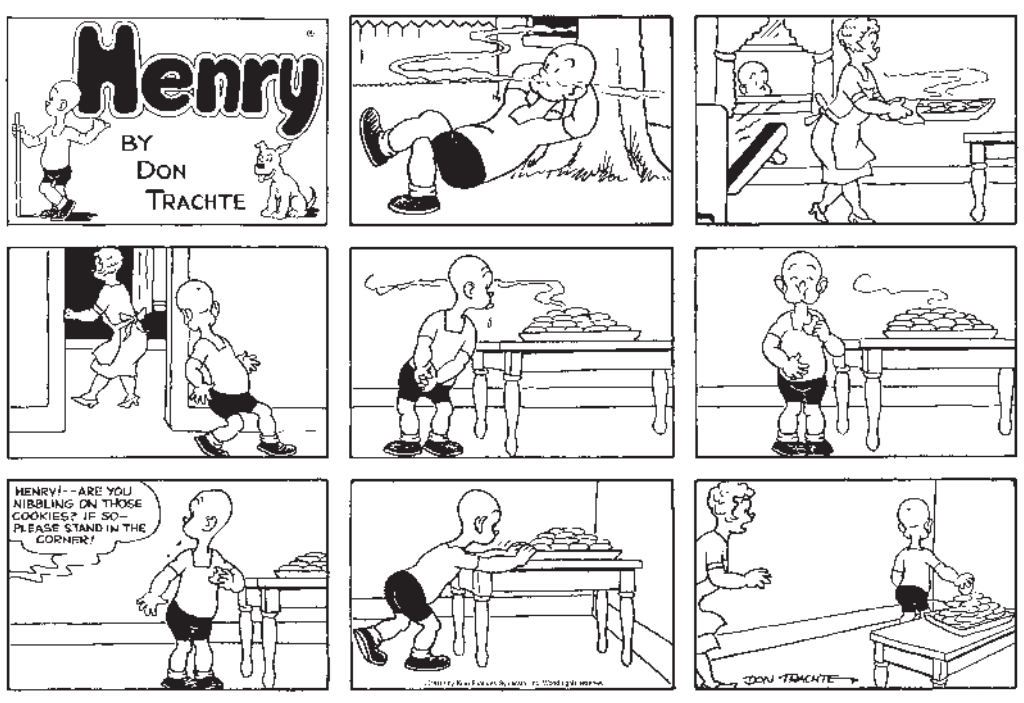
POPEYE
Hy Eisman
POPEYE! DON'T YOU DARE HOOK THAT LITTLE WORM!
I HAFTA BAIT TH' HOOK WIT' SUM'THIN, OLIVE...
...THA'S HOW YA KETCH FISH!
HOW ABOUT USING MY SUGGESTION?
THA'S REALLY A DUMB IDEAR!
IT'S ONLY DUMB IF YOU NEVER TRY IT!
ARF! ARF! YA CAN'T BE SERIOUS, SWEETIE!
OH, YES I AM, MISTER SAILORMAN!
IT'D BE A LOT BETTER THAN TORTURING LITTLE DEFENSELESS WORMS...
...AND THEN DROWNING THEM!
OKAY... I'LL TRY IT YER WAY..
...BUT I STILL THINK IT'S A WASTE OF SPINACH!

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


HOW TO MAKE AN OLD GUY FEEL EVEN OLDER—
OH, MILDEW, DEAR... TELL LIL WOMBO HOW YOU USED TO WALK FIVE MILES TO SCHOOL IN THE RAIN—IN THE SLEET—IN THE FREEZING WEATHER—DAY IN, DAY OUT...AND CARRYING HEAVY BOOKS...
FEELING AS OLD AS ROCKS
Thanks to SUZU HUNTER, CINCINNATI, OHIO
TV PROGRAMMING JUST FOR YOU—
STAY TUNED—COMING UP NEXT—TRAIN CRASHES—CAR COLLISIONS—SINKING SHIPS—BUILDINGS COLLAPSING—POLICE CAR CHASES—ALL CAUGHT ON TAPE—DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL...
Thanks to LEN D'AMICO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is Europe's longest river?
2. TELEVISION: What was the fictional home state of "M A S H" surgeon Hawkeye Pierce?
3. MOVIES: What was the name of the woodcarver and creator of "Pinocchio" in the Disney film?
4. LANGUAGE: What does "gesundheit" mean in German?
5. RELIGION: Who is the patron saint of dancers?
6. ROYALS: Who preceded Queen Elizabeth II in the English throne?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the term for the pointed wheel at the end of cowboy boots' spurs?
8. LITERATURE: In Ian Fleming's spy novels, what agency did James Bond work for?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What fruit that is commonly eaten today was widely considered poisonous until the 18th century?
10. INVENTIONS: What popular drink did druggist John Pemberton invent in 1886?

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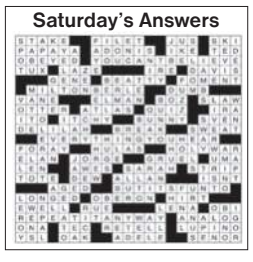
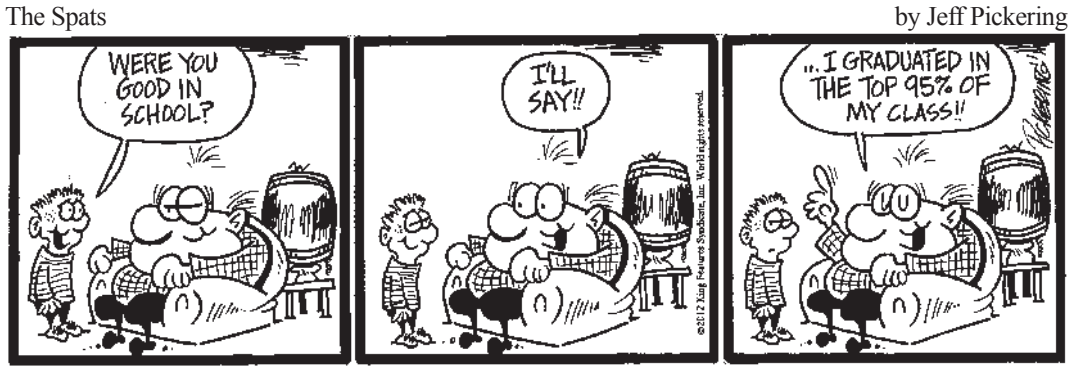
Answers
1. The Volga River
2. Maine
3. Geppetto
4. To your health
5. St. Vitus
6. Her father, George VI
7. Rowel
8. MI6 (Military Intelligence Section 6)
9. The tomato
10. Coca-Cola

Saturday's Answers



The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


WERE YOU GOOD IN SCHOOL?
I'LL SAY!!
...I GRADUATED IN THE TOP 95% OF MY CLASS!!
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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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- MASSEUSE
- BARTENDER

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Look for Kelly, Tel.: 235-6667/68
Cell: 287-6698

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Wanted (1) Male and (1) Female Caregiver. Call 285-8309 or 322-1947 and Look for Letty.

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Saipan Tribune

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Opinion

Even despots don't live forever

The fragrance of war

WHATZIT Solution: Over to you

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KagHS JROTC

GCA's January forensic winners

Overdrive

Mustang Boss 302

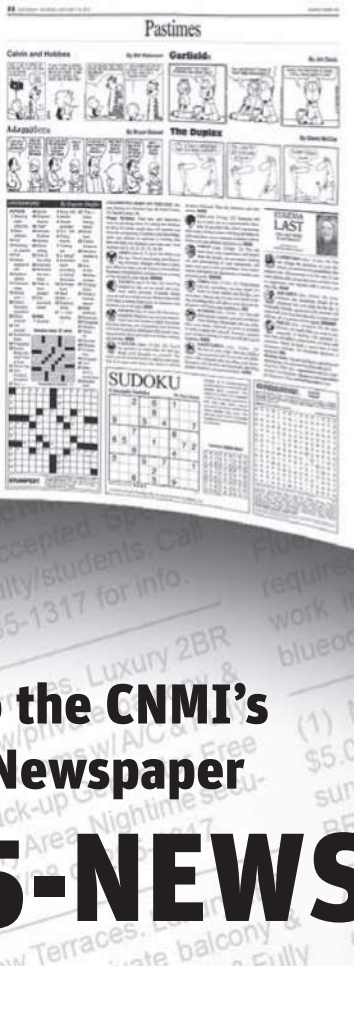
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras

Q&A Electrical gremlins make for balky window, doors

Life&Style

Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards

Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement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Heat beats Bulls to tighten East race

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat beat the Chicago Bulls 83-72 in a bad-tempered clash on Thursday, tightening the race for the top seed in the NBA Eastern Conference.

LeBron James had 27 points and 11 rebounds while Dwyane Wade scored 18 points for Miami in a scuffle-filled game.

The Heat held the Bulls to a season-low point total and moved within 1-1/2 games of Chicago, which leads the East.

John Lucas scored 16 points for Chicago, which was again without reigning MVP Derrick Rose because of injuries.

The teams combined for four technicals, two flagrant fouls and Miami reserve James Jones was ejected.

AP
Miami Heat's LeBron James goes to the basket against Carlos Boozer, left, and Joakim Noah during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Thursday, April 19, 2012, in Miami.

Report: Howard says he will have back surgery

Dwight Howard's season is over. His chances to help Team USA win another Olympic gold are likely done, too.

Orlando's All-Star center told ESPN.com he will have season-ending back surgery, and Magic general manager Otis Smith confirmed the plan to the Orlando Sentinel on Thursday night.

"It's in his best interests to have surgery sooner rather than later," Smith told the newspaper.

Friday's operation in Los Angeles to repair a herniated disk also will keep him from playing in the Olympics in London, Howard's agent, Dan Fegan, told ESPN.com.

"I tried to play through it and it just made my back worse," Howard told ESPN.com

Howard has been dealing with back problems since early March, but it wasn't until last week that a doctor discovered the herniated disk.

"He said I can start rehab right away and be back to full contact in four months," Howard told ESPN.com. "So I'm not really concerned. If anything, I'll come back stronger."

Howard has missed the last six games because of the injury. Orlando holds the sixth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, and coach Stan Van Gundy said last week that he was preparing to play the rest of the season without Howard.

Now it looks as if Team USA will have to plan to play without Howard as well.

USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said Thursday night he hadn't been told of Howard's plans and it was too early to speculate on the Olympic team.

The final roster of 12 players and six alternates is due June 18 and the U.S. may have to consider increasing its pool of possible candidates with Howard out and fellow big man LaMarcus Aldridge iffy following right hip surgery.

"I understand exactly who's involved," Colangelo said. "The only thing I don't know is the extent of Dwight Howard's situation, and I really want to find out more about that. But we may have to consider, you know, invitations to a couple (other) players. That's a possibility. We'll talk about it."

The Miami Heat may see Orlando in the playoffs. When the news of Howard's surgery hit their locker room Thursday night, Heat stars LeBron James and Dwyane Wade—both likely Olympic-teamers—wished Howard well and said it was disappointing not to have him in the mix for the London Games.

"He's a big part of our team for the Olympics and I hate to lose him because of an injury," James said. "I wish him the best."

The surgery is the latest development in the Magic's soap-opera season that has grabbed more attention than the team's record.

Howard was the subject of season-long trade rumors until declaring in February his intention to remain in Orlando for one more year. The controversy continued earlier this month when Van Gundy said Howard asked team management to fire him. Howard has since denied that. Another report from an Orlando television station this week said Howard called Magic owner Rich DeVos to say he was refusing to play for Van Gundy again.

Before this season, Howard had only missed two games in his career because of injury.

Howard is averaging 20.6 points and 14.5 rebounds.

The Magic also have been playing without Hedo Turkoglu (facial fracture) since April 5. He's averaging 10.7 points and is shooting 34.9 percent on 3-pointers.

With Howard and Turkoglu sidelined, Van Gundy has started Glen Davis at center with Jason Richardson and Ryan Anderson at forward. J.J. Redick and Jameer Nelson start in the backcourt.

Chicago has games against Dallas, Indiana and Cleveland left, while Miami will play-Washington twice, as well as Houston and Boston.

Suns 93, Clippers 90

In Phoenix, Steve Nash hit a crucial driving layup, then made two free throws for the deciding points as Phoenix bolstered its playoff hopes with victory over Los Angeles.

There were 24 lead changes before the Suns recorded their 10th straight win over the Clippers in Phoenix.

Jared Dudley scored 18 points for the Suns, who moved into a tie with Utah for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Chris Paul scored 19 points for the Clippers.

Pacers 118, Bucks 109

In Indianapolis, Indiana beat Milwaukee to clinch homecourt advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Danny Granger scored 29 points and George Hill had 22 points and eight assists for the Pacers, who won their seventh straight and passed 100 points for the 12th time in 13 games.

Brandon Jennings scored 27 points for the Bucks, who lost their third straight and are running out of chances to catch up with Philadelphia for the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference.

Hornets 105, Rockets 99, OT

In New Orleans, the hosts won in overtime to further dent Houston's playoff hopes, inflicting the Rockets' sixth straight loss.

Eric Gordon scored 27 points and Carl Landry had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who went on a 9-0 run in overtime to take control.

Goran Dragic scored 23 points for Houston, which dropped one game behind Utah for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with three games left.

Timberwolves 91, Pistons 80

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Minnesota ended an 11-game losing skid by beating Detroit.

Nikola Pekovic scored 23 points for the Timberwolves, who never trailed and took a 49-31 halftime lead after shooting 57 percent (21 of 37) from the field. An 8-0 run pushed the lead to over 20 points midway through the third quarter.

Tayshaun Prince had 18 points to lead to lead Detroit.

Source: Colts picking Andrew Luck at No. 1

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The secret is out.

Andrew Luck will be the Indianapolis Colts' new quarterback.

A person with direct knowledge of the situation said Thursday that the Colts have notified Luck that they plan to take the Stanford quarterback with the No. 1 pick in next week's NFL draft barring some unforeseen event between now and then. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not publicly disclosed its plan.

It's hardly a surprise that the Colts are turning to Luck as the cornerstone of their massive rebuilding project. Luck was projected as the No. 1 pick in the 2011 draft before returning to school for his fourth season. He gave up his final year of college eligibility to enter this year's draft, which was dubbed the Andrew Luck Sweepstakes from the start.

Contract negotiations are not expected to begin before the draft, the person familiar with the situation told the AP. Will Wilson, Luck's agent, did not immediately respond to phone messages or text messages Thursday.

"We've exhausted the process," new Indy general manager Ryan Grigson told reporters Wednesday. "We've pretty much made up our minds and we're going to go from there. We feel good about it and we'll go from there."

Grigson acknowledged that the Colts made their decision "a little while" ago, though he declined to say whether the Colts would take Luck or Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III of Baylor.

The secret lasted less than 24 hours. ESPN.com first reported that the Colts' had informed Luck they will take him. That would likely send Griffin to the Redskins, who traded a first- and second-round pick this year and first-rounders each of the next two years to St. Louis to move into the No. 2 slot.

Luck faces a challenging situation in Indy, which went 2-14 last season after Peyton Manning was lost with a season-ending injury that required neck surgery.

Manning was released March 7 and eventually signed with Denver, and Luck will now serve as Manning's successor.

He may get off to a rough start through no fault of his own.

"I believe Andrew may struggle early simply because of the surrounding cast playing with him," said Colts former vice chairman Bill Polian, acknowledging both rookies will have their share of problems in 2012. "It was nowhere near where Peyton's was, and he went 3-13. I think Andrew will struggle more because of the receivers around him. Only Reggie (Wayne) and Austin (Collie) are back."

Still, Luck was the obvious choice as Manning's successor all along.

A pro-style pocket quarterback, Luck threw for 35 touchdowns last season—breaking his school record of 32 a year ago—and eclipsed John Elway's career record (77) at Stanford with 80 touchdown passes in only three years.

He finished with 3,170 yards passing, a 70 percent completion percentage and only nine interceptions without the benefit of an elite wide receiver. In a 41-38 Fiesta Bowl loss to Oklahoma State, Luck was brilliant again, going 27 of 31 passing for 347 yards and two touchdowns with an interception.

And while the Colts sent a larger contingent of scouts to Griffin's pro day, it was Luck who had a private workout for the Colts and traveled to Indianapolis for a personal interview. Griffin did not, Grigson explained, partly because the Colts had already made their decision.

What the Colts will get with Luck is a skilled player who's had an extra year to mature from 2011, when even then he might have been drafted ahead of Auburn star Cam Newton.

"I tend to think because of my position as an AD at a Division I school that spending a full four years is going to benefit almost every player, not just from a football standpoint but walking away with a degree is important in today's world, too," West Virginia athletic director Oliver Luck, Andrew's father, said Wednesday. "The emotional development that comes with completing the cycle with the class that you came in with, I think that last aspect is very special.

"Plus, I think the vast majority of cases, it's beneficial to come back and play that third and fourth year in many cases," he added.

Luck will be far from the only new face in Indy.

Grigson replaced the father-son front office tandem of Bill and Chris Polian in January, then brought in new coach Chuck Pagano to replace the fired Jim Caldwell. Pagano has almost an entirely new staff, and some players have even found new spots for their lockers.

The biggest change, of course, is not seeing No. 18 around town.

Two days after Manning's release, the Colts cut other veterans including defensive captains Gary Brackett and Melvin Bullitt, Pro Bowl tight end Dallas Clark and running back Joseph Addai. Longtime center Jeff Saturday, receiver Pierre Garcon and backup tight end Jacob Tamme all left in free agency.

Now, the Colts are looking to start fresh.

"Barring any unforeseen problem we're pretty sure what direction we want to go. Barring any unforeseen event, we know what we're doing," Grigson said.

Darvish in command, Rangers beat Tigers

DETROIT (AP)—Texas pitcher Yu Darvish held Detroit scoreless into the seventh inning as the Rangers beat the Tigers 10-3 on Thursday to notch their seventh straight win.

Darvish (2-0) showed impressive poise in the opener of a four-game set at Comerica Park, allowing one run over 6 1-3 innings in his toughest test since coming over from Japan.

Mike Napoli homered for the fourth straight game as Texas won a reprise of last year's American League Championship Series.

The Rangers are 6-0 on the road, equaling a team record set in 1989.

Detroit starter Adam Wilk (0-2) gave up 10 hits in four-plus innings.

Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish throws against the Detroit Tigers in the first inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Thursday, April 19, 2012. AP

Orioles 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Jason Hammel struck out 10 batters and closer Jim Johnson then fanned the last batter with the bases loaded to give Baltimore victory over Chicago.

Hammel (2-0) matched a career high for strikeouts, doing it in just six innings. He worked out of trouble early, leaving the bases loaded in the first and third.

Baltimore's Adam Jones hit a two-run homer and an RBI double. It was his fifth homer of the season but the first with a runner on base.

Johnson earned his sixth save. He has converted 14 straight chances dating to last season.

White Sox starter Gavin Floyd (1-2) allowed five runs in six innings.

Rays 9, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Evan Longoria hit a two-run homer as Tampa Bay ended a 10-game road trip on a high, beating Toronto.

Longoria went 3 for 4 with a season-high four RBIs and reached base four times as the Rays tagged Henderson Alvarez (0-1) for a career-worst six earned runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Desmond Jennings added a solo shot for the Rays.

Tampa Bay starter Jeremy Hellickson (2-0) gave up two earned runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Indians 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Jack Hannahan hit a two-run single in the ninth inning to lift Cleveland over Seattle.

The winning hit came off closer Brandon League and spoiled a dominant performance by Mariners starter Felix Hernandez, who struck out 12 and walked only one in eight scoreless innings.

Cleveland starter Josh Tomlin just about matched Hernandez pitch for pitch. He yielded one run in eight innings, struck out seven, walked none and threw just 96 pitches.

Indians closer Chris Perez got the save.

Yankees 7, Twins 6

In New York, Curtis Granderson hit three home runs in the first four innings and matched a career high with five hits, powering New York to a tight win over Minnesota.

Granderson homered in each of his first three at-bats, driving in four runs, and helped Yankees starter Phil Hughes (1-2) take the win despite giving up four runs in the first inning.

Granderson got two chances to tie the major league record of four homers in a game. In the sixth, he singled and in the eighth, he hit a dribbler down the first base line.

Granderson became player to hit three homers in a game this year. His first two came off starter Anthony Swarzak (0-3).

Mariano Rivera worked a perfect ninth for his third save of the season and record 606th of his career.

Athletics 4, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Oakland notched its third straight win with victory over struggling Los Angeles.

Kurt Suzuki and Kila Ka'aihue drove in runs, while Oakland scored two more on pitcher C.J. Wilson's throwing error in his Angels home debut.

A's starter Tommy Milone (2-1) took the win, with the Athletics taking three of four from the big-spending Angels, who are struggling at 4-9.

Wilson (2-1) labored through six innings and Los Angeles stranded 11 runners.

Dodgers 4, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Los Angeles' Matt Kemp hit his seventh home run of the season as the Dodgers beat the Milwaukee Brewers and avoided a three-game sweep.

Andre Ethier and Juan Rivera added RBI singles while third baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. made two big late-inning defensive plays for the Dodgers.

Los Angeles starter Aaron Harang (1-1) went six innings and Javy Guerra pitched a scoreless ninth, his sixth save in seven opportunities this season.

Brewers starter Randy Wolf (0-2) went six innings.

Astros 11, Nationals 4

In Washington, Houston set a franchise record by hitting three triples in the first inning, scoring five runs in the frame to set up a win over Washington.

The Astros had a season-high 17 hits, with Brian Bogusevic and Jason Castro getting three each, and ended a four-game skid.

Starter Bud Norris (1-0) pitched six innings for the win and helped himself with a two-run single.

The Nationals entered with a major league-leading 1.92 ERA, but they allowed more runs and hits than they had in any of their first 13 games. Washington had won eight of nine.

Nationals starter Edwin Jackson (1-1) gave up five runs in five innings.

Braves 10, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Mike Minor (2-1) struck out nine in a career-high eight innings, allowing only one earned run, as Atlanta cruised past Arizona.

Freddie Freeman hit a pair of two-run homers and drove in five for the Braves, who scored three runs each in the sixth and eighth. Freeman has 10 RBIs in his past three games.

Arizona starter Josh Collmenter (0-1) had his longest outing of the season after struggling in his first two. He was charged with four earned runs in 5 1-3 innings, pushing his season ERA out to 10.22.

The Diamondbacks, defending NL West champions, lost their third straight — all without star right fielder Justin Upton (thumb) in the starting lineup.

Reds 6, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Bronson Arroyo worked eight strong innings to steer Cincinnati past St. Louis.

Matt Holliday's three-run homer in the sixth was the only damage against Arroyo (1-0), who struck out five and walked none while scattering five hits.

Brandon Phillips, Ryan Ludwick and Drew Stubbs homered for the Reds, who found some power after just one homer over their previous nine games.

Cardinals starter Adam Wainwright (0-3) is winless in his first three decisions for the first time in his career. He allowed four runs in five innings, leaving him with a 9.88 ERA.

Marlins 5, Cubs 3

In Miami, the hosts completed a three-game sweep and inflicted Chicago's fifth successive loss.

Greg Dobbs hit a two-run double for the Marlins.

Miami starter Ricky Nolasco (2-0) went 5 1-3 innings for the victory.

Cubs starter Jeff Samardzija (2-1) was tagged for five runs in 3 2-3 innings.

Phillies 2, Padres 0

In San Diego, Vance Worley struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings and combined with two relievers on a shutout as Philadelphia blanked San Diego.

The Phillies have beaten the Padres 12 straight times at Petco Park dating to 2008.

Worley (1-1) held San Diego to four hits while walking three.

Joe Wieland (0-2), making his second big league start, allowed only a sacrifice fly in the first. Philadelphia added a run in the ninth on a passed ball.

Matt Every shoots course-record 63 in Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO (AP)— Matt Every arrived at the Texas Open having sworn off instructors, proudly cutting practices short and cringing at the sight of other players endlessly tweaking their swings.

His reward was a course record at a PGA Tour stop.

Outshining the few big PGA Tour names in a weakened field, Every made nine birdies in a bogey-free 9-under 63 for a three-stroke lead over Hunter Haas after the first round Thursday.

It was a career best on a notoriously unforgiving TPC San Antonio course that opened in 2010, but is partly blamed for why the tournament doesn't attract more star power.

"I see the same guys tinkering with their swings, and they spend all day Tuesday and Wednesday practicing, and I think, `God, I'm glad I'm not one of these guys,'" Every said. "And I'm sticking to that. When I get on the course, I'm more interested in playing golf than my golf swing."

Every, whose best finish in six years on the tour is third, coasted to his first lead since sharing the top spot entering the final round of the Sony Open in January. His wife, who is seven months pregnant, followed him for the entirety of a the record that broke the course mark of 64 set by Ryan Palmer and Scott Piercy in 2010.

"Told her, only wanted her to go to nine today," Every said. "Said she had to keep going after the front nine. It's cool."

Haas finished with one of the round's three eagles on the par-5 18th. Former British Open champion Ben Curtis, playing in his fourth PGA Tour event of the season after his status on the entry list plummeted near the bottom, was fourth strokes back at 67.

Fredrik Jacobson, Cameron Beckman, Jason Gore, Troy Matteson and Derek Lamely shot 68.

Haas shot a bogey-free round capped by a brilliant approach on No. 18, driving a 3-wood from the fairway to 5 feet. He has struggled this season, missing the cut six times and finishing no better than a tie for 37th in Mexico at the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

"It's nice to finish a round like that. It's been a while," Haas said.

Matt Kuchar, the tournament's top-ranked player at No. 15 and two weeks removed form his near miss at the Masters, closed with a bogey on the par-4 ninth for a 70. Johnson Wagner had a 74 after speaking optimistically about taking advantage of the absence of star players in the field.

Defending champion Brendan Steele had a 73. He made a double bogey on the par-4 fourth.

The other star of last year's Texas Open didn't even make it past the first round. Kevin Na, who returned to San Antonio poking fun at his memorable 16 on No. 9, tapped in a 6-footer for par this time, but withdrew after signing his card at 7 over.

Every was more at ease with his front-runner status than the last time in Honolulu. There he looked uncomfortable while being asked about his arrest on a misdemeanor marijuana possession charge in 2010 that resulted in a PGA Tour suspension his rookie season. He also attributed a tough night of sleep there to what he described as his first real time in contention.

After his round Thursday, a PGA Tour spokesman cautioned reporters that Every sometimes doesn't ease into interviews as easily as other players. But the 28-year-old former Florida star was candid and carefree while discussing his love for the band Oasis and naming his first son Liam.

He only casually mentioned ditching his swing instructor two weeks ago and that he "doesn't care anymore" whether his feet or toes lift off the ground when he swings.

"Lately I've been trying to do as little as possible with everything involved with golf," Every said. "If I'm hitting bad in the range I won't even work out - I'll quit and go home. And it's been working. It has. I'm playing better golf because of it."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	37	26	.587	–
x-New York	33	29	.532	3 1/2
Philadelphia	32	30	.516	4 1/2
New Jersey	22	41	.349	15
Toronto	22	41	.349	15

Southeast Division

y-Miami	45	17	.726	–
x-Atlanta	37	25	.597	8
x-Orlando	36	26	.581	9
Washington	16	46	.258	29
Charlotte	7	54	.115	37 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	47	16	.746	–
x-Indiana	41	22	.651	6
Milwaukee	29	33	.468	17 1/2
Detroit	23	40	.365	24
Cleveland	20	41	.328	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	45	16	.738	–
x-Memphis	37	25	.597	8 1/2
x-Dallas	35	28	.556	11
Houston	32	31	.508	14
New Orleans	20	43	.317	26

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	45	17	.726	–
Denver	34	28	.548	11
Utah	33	30	.524	12 1/2
Portland	28	35	.444	17 1/2
Minnesota	26	38	.406	20

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	40	23	.635	–
x-L.A. Clippers	39	24	.619	1
Phoenix	33	30	.524	7
Golden State	22	39	.361	17
Sacramento	20	42	.323	19 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	8	5	.615	–
New York	7	6	.538	1
Tampa Bay	7	6	.538	1
Toronto	6	6	.500	1 1/2
Boston	4	8	.333	3 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	9	4	.692	–
Cleveland	6	5	.545	2
Chicago	6	6	.500	2 1/2
Minnesota	4	9	.308	5
Kansas City	3	9	.250	5 1/2

West Division

Texas	11	2	.846	–
Oakland	7	7	.500	4 1/2
Seattle	7	7	.500	4 1/2
Los Angeles	4	9	.308	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	10	4	.714	–
Atlanta	8	5	.615	1 1/2
New York	7	5	.583	2
Miami	7	6	.538	2 1/2
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	3 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	9	4	.692	–
Milwaukee	6	7	.462	3
Pittsburgh	5	7	.417	3 1/2
Cincinnati	5	8	.385	4
Houston	5	8	.385	4
Chicago	3	10	.231	6

West Division

Los Angeles	10	3	.769	–
Arizona	7	6	.538	3
Colorado	6	6	.500	3 1/2
San Francisco	6	6	.500	3 1/2
San Diego	3	11	.214	7 1/2

TEXAS OPEN SCORES

SAN ANTONIO (AP) – Scores Thursday from the $6.2-million Texas Open played at the par-72 (36-36), 7,435-yard TPC San Antonio, Oaks Course

FIRST ROUND

Matt Every	32-31–63
Hunter Haas	33-33–66
Ben Curtis	32-35–67
Fredrik Jacobson	35-33–68
Cameron Beckman	34-34–68
Jason Gore	35-33–68
Troy Matteson	33-35–68
Derek Lamely	34-34–68
Rich Beem	34-35–69
David Mathis	37-32–69
Matt Kuchar	37-33–70
Tommy Biershenk	35-35–70
Harris English	36-34–70
Kyle Reifers	36-34–70
Bud Cauley	35-35–70
Billy Mayfair	36-34–70
Miguel Angel Carballo	37-33–70
Vaughn Taylor	36-35–71
Stuart Appleby	35-36–71
Spencer Levin	34-37–71
John Rollins	33-38–71
Frank Lickliter II	37-34–71
William McGirt	34-37–71
Mark Anderson	35-36–71
Kelly Kraft	35-36–71
Billy Hurley III	37-34–71
Marco Dawson	36-35–71
Blake Adams	35-36–71
Ryan Palmer	37-34–71
Skip Kendall	36-35–71
Kevin Streelman	36-35–71
Garth Mulroy	37-34–71
Martin Flores	36-35–71
Patrick Reed	36-35–71
Brendon de Jonge	36-36–72
Neal Lancaster	37-35–72
John Merrick	37-35–72
Hank Kuehne	37-35–72
Jerry Kelly	37-35–72
Charley Hoffman	39-33–72
Ryan Moore	35-37–72
Lee Janzen	36-36–72
Scott Dunlap	35-37–72
Bob Estes	36-36–72
Woody Austin	40-32–72
Will MacKenzie	35-37–72
Ted Potter, Jr.	37-35–72
Brian Harman	35-37–72
Russell Knox	36-36–72
Zack Miller	38-34–72
Charlie Wi	35-37–72
Chris Stroud	37-35–72
Greg Chalmers	38-34–72
Patrick Sheehan	35-37–72
Joe Ogilvie	37-35–72
Harrison Frazar	37-35–72
Cameron Tringale	34-38–72
Tom Gillis	35-37–72
Kevin Chappell	36-36–72
Scott Langley	40-32–72
Nick O'Hern	37-36–73
Paul Stankowski	36-37–73
Brandt Jobe	34-39–73
Briny Baird	34-39–73
Chad Campbell	37-36–73
Graham DeLaet	35-38–73
Brendan Steele	35-38–73
Bill Lunde	38-35–73
Brian Gay	36-37–73
Nathan Green	39-34–73
Seung-Yul Noh	37-36–73
Kevin Kisner	38-35–73
J.J. Killeen	35-38–73
Diego Velasquez	36-37–73
Kris Blanks	38-36–74
Omar Uresti	41-33–74
Heath Slocum	36-38–74
Johnson Wagner	38-36–74
K.J. Choi	40-34–74
Stephen Ames	35-39–74
Dicky Pride	38-36–74
Mathew Goggin	38-36–74
Sunghoon Kang	36-38–74
Colt Knost	37-37–74
Gary Christian	36-38–74
Tim Herron	39-35–74
Justin Leonard	38-36–74
Ricky Barnes	35-39–74
David Hearn	37-37–74
Daniel Chopra	38-36–74
J.J. Henry	38-36–74
Steve Wheatcroft	39-35–74
Daniel Summerhays	38-36–74
Matt McQuillan	37-37–74
Billy Horschel	36-38–74
David Duval	39-36–75
Troy Kelly	36-39–75
a-Jordan Spieth	38-37–75
Garrett Willis	38-37–75
Gavin Coles	37-38–75
Alexandre Rocha	40-35–75
Will Claxton	38-37–75
William Osborne	38-37–75
Danny Lee	39-36–75
Matt Bettencourt	39-37–76
Arjun Atwal	39-37–76
Marc Leishman	38-38–76
Roberto Castro	40-36–76
Scott Brown	38-38–76
Stephen Gangluff	40-36–76
Duffy Waldorf	40-36–76
Scott Piercy	41-35–76
Ted Purdy	35-41–76
Craig Barlow	38-38–76
Tim Petrovic	38-38–76
Robert Damron	38-38–76
Kyle Thompson	41-35–76
Jason Kokrak	36-40–76
Matt Jones	39-38–77
Marc Turnesa	40-37–77
Kevin Stadler	38-39–77
J.B. Holmes	39-38–77
Brett Wetterich	37-40–77
Boo Weekley	40-37–77
Shane Bertsch	40-37–77
Richard H. Lee	39-38–77
Edward Loar	39-38–77
Josh Teater	40-37–77
Shaun Micheel	39-38–77
Joe Durant	39-38–77
John Huh	33-44–77
Chris DiMarco	38-39–77
Steven Bowditch	40-37–77
Bobby Gates	40-37–77
Lonny Alexander	40-37–77
Michael Putnam	39-38–77
Steve Flesch	40-38–78
Ryuji Imada	40-38–78
Jimmy Walker	41-37–78
Jonas Blixt	37-41–78
Casey DeVoll	39-39–78
Roland Thatcher	41-38–79
Chris Riley	41-38–79
Paul Norris	41-38–79
Mark Hensby	42-37–79
Brian Bateman	39-40–79
Jamie Lovemark	41-38–79
Tommy Gainey	41-39–80
Kirk Triplett	39-43–82
Robert Gamez	45-37–82
Eric Axley	43-39–82
Charlie Beljan	43-40–83
John Mallinger	WD
Erik Compton	WD
Anthony Kim	WD

a-denotes amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JETS

From Page 28

Camacho's hands, despite the fact that eight of their 11 previous batters found a way on base against the Jets' struggling reliever Villagomez.

Red Sox's Roke Tenorio batted 3-for-3 with a run and a base on ball. Jets' Deleon Guerrero went 2-for-3 with an RBI, two runs, a base on ball, and a stolen base. The Red Sox out-hit the Jets, 13-7.

Nakamura kept the win and gave up one earned run off 10 hits and a walk with four strikeouts through six and two-thirds innings.

Falcons 13, Lions 1

The Falcons knocked on the Lions' den door three times with runs in the first, second, and third innings before kicking it down with six runs in the fourth frame with five hits and some wild pitches. Raymond Saralu bagged an RBI single.

The Lions' lone run came in the bottom of the third from an RBI poke by Bret Halstead that brought in Justin Reyes, but it was all Falcons on Tuesday.

The Falcons were stood up in the fifth, but tacked up four runs in the sixth inning off four hits, including a pair of triples by Brandon Lieto and Adolfo Roppul.

Winning pitcher Roppul finished strong and secured the early decision.

Notably, Roppul dissected the Lions from the hump and allowed one earned run off three hits, two walks, and a hit batsmen with one strikeout through six innings. He bagged 10 ground outs and five put outs.

Ol'Aces 20, Lions 2

Ol'Aces brought their bats and teed off on three different pitchers as they rotated through their lineup four and a half times in four innings.

Lions' Perry Celis led off with a triple and was driven in by Kobe Tomokane, but the Lions offense disappeared for the next four innings.

Ol'Aces immediately pulled ahead, 3-1, in the first inning off an RBI single by Mike Muna and a wild pitch. Muna also scored off an error.

Ol'Aces then posted up four more runs in the bottom frame off a pair of RBI singles by Verlance Secharmidal and Kenji Yamagata. Secharmidal stole home and Yamagata scored off an error.

The wheels came off at that point for the Lions as Ol'Aces hammered 12 of their 18 hits in the third and fourth innings. Secharmidal cranked a couple of two-run inside-the-park home runs, Giovanni Taitingfong busted an RBI double, Terson Eina jacked an RBI triple, and J.P. Taitano bashed a two-run inside-the-parker.

Ol'Aces' Top 3 of Jessie Brel, Secharmidal, and Muna put a hand in on 12 of the runs. Brel swung 4-for-4 with an RBI, four runs, and two stolen bases. Secharmidal went 3-for-4 with five RBIs and another run and a stolen base. Muna batted 3-for-4 with an RBI, four runs, and a stolen base.

SENIOR DIVISION
D-9ers 11, Enforcers 5

Enforcers' Austin Petig drew a pass and stole the plate and teammate Vince Cabrera bashed an RBI triple and also stole home in the first inning.

However, the D-9ers responded with two runs in the bottom frame from some sketchy pitching that enabled a two-RBI base knock by Jeremy Atalig in the bottom frame.

D-9ers pitcher Brandon Dela Cruz settled down and held the Enforcers' in check for the next three innings, while his teammates built him a 5-3 lead in the third inning off four hits. Robert Tudela, Luis Duenas, and Gino Dela Cruz all bagged RBIs singles.

Enforcers' top of the lineup countered with two runs in the top of the fifth inning, but the D-9ers handed the ball over to Atalig after the damage, who delivered the close.

The D-9ers went on to add five more runs in the last two innings just to make sure.

D-9ers' Robert Tudela swung 3-for-3 with two doubles for three RBIs, three runs, a base on ball, and two stolen bases. Atalig batted 3-for-4 with thee RBIs, a run, and two base on balls. Enforcers' Cabrera went 3-for-4 with an RBI, a run, and a stolen base.

Enforcers 6, D-9ers 3

An early error and an RBI base rip by Enforcers' V.J. Terry wiped away a stolen dish by D-9ers' Ian Lizama in the first inning.

Enforcers then went ahead, 5-1, in the second frame from an RBI single by Mathew Lisua that brought in Austin Petig, an error, and an RBI double by Vince Cabrera.

The D-9ers struck back with two runs to start the third when Lizama belted home Brandon Dela Cruz and stole the plate a second time, but the Enforcers got one back in the bottom half when a pair of leadoff walks set up an RBI base smash for E.J. Itibus.

After the big hit, Itibus stepped to the mound in relief for starter Lofton Edward to start the fourth and did a good job closing the last four innings.

Notably, D-9ers' Nick Jones also stepped to the rubber from the fourth inning and turned in a strong performance of his own, if not for a pair of costly walks from the get-go.

Itibus nabbed the win and gave up just two hits and two walks with four strikeouts in four scoreless innings. Teammate Mathew Sablan batted 3-for-3 with two runs.

TWO-WAY

From Page 28

ven Cabrera (17-for-30/0.567), Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces' A.J. Lizama (18-for-32/0.563), IT&E Fielders' Jared Lizama (7-for-13/0.538), Marianas Cable Vision Kagman Lions' Paul Celis (11-for-21/0.524), Juan Santiago-Jets II's Jeffrey Lizama (16-for-33/0.485), Ol'Aces' T.J. Sablan (14-for-29/0.483), Fielders' Khobby Kaipat (13-for-27/0.481), and Hunters' Jesus Mafnas (11-for-23/0.478) and Joseph Borja (8-for-17/0.471). Over a dozen other players are swing better than 0.400.

Ol'Aces' Jun Rabauliman leads the group in RBIs with 12 with Steven Cabrera (11), Fielders' Davin Ada (10), and T.J. Sablan (10) in hot pursuit.

Jets II's Shane Deleon Guerrero and Borja's three homers fronts the category ahead of two-timers Jared Lizama and Fielders' Ian Rogolifoi.

A.J. Lizama leads the league in triples with six, while Steven Cabrera, Jonathan Villagomez, and Saipan Shipping Company-Jets I's Tristan Javier top the field in doubles with four apiece and Jerome Reyes' 17 runs is one-upping A.J. Lizama and Steven Cabrera with four players tied at 15.

Nakamura, for his part, has so far cranked out 13 hits in 23 at bats for a 0.565 hitting rate and is the only player in the Big Division with at least 16 at bats swinging better than 0.500.

He leads Paradise Island Animal Hospital-Hustlers' Jeremy Lizama (12-for-25/0.480) and Kelvin Villagomez (12-for-25/0.480), IT&E Fielders' Patrick Tenorio (13-for-28/0.464), Hustlers' MacGarette Duenas (10-for-22/0.455) and Manny Flores (14-31/0.452), Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama (11-for-25/0.440), Fielders' Carl Camacho (10-for-23/0.435), and Lions' Leroy Regis (9-for-21/0.429) with three others swinging 0.400 or better.

Nakamura is tied with Villagomez with 11 RBIs, but leads the league in doubles with five. Ol'Aces' Jacob Flores (9), Keoni Lizama (8), and Rocco Reyes (7) trail in the RBI race.

Nakumura's teammates, Keoni Lizama and Leonard Sablan, lead the division in home runs with three and two, respectively. Duenas and Carl Camacho share the triples honors with three apiece. Six other players each have one home run, while a dozen others each have a pair of triples on the year.

Ol'Aces' speedster Diego Camacho still leads the league in runs scored with 13, but teammate Lamarc Iguel (12), Duenas (12), and Manny Flores (10) are still in the rear view.

In pitching, Junior Ol'Aces' Terson Eina (3-0) remains in front of the herd. He has issued just two earned runs through 14.1 innings off six hits for a 0.98 earned run average.

Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera (4.00 ERA) and Jets' Jason Villagomez (4.13 ERA) are the only other pitchers to turn in at least 14 innings of work.

Villagomez has tallied 30 strikeouts so far on the year, compared to Eina's 22 and Wanket's 19.

Senior League's A.J. Lizama (4-0) has allowed seven earned runs through 19 innings off 17 hits for a field-low 2.58 ERA.

He leads Jeffrey Lizama (2.74 ERA), Jonathan Villagomez (3.44 ERA), Enforcers' Austin Piteg (3.58 ERA), Steven Cabrera (4.11 ERA) and Keoni Kaipat (4.14 ERA) with four other pitchers holding 4.50 ERAs or higher through a minimum of 14 innings.

A.J. Lizama's 31 strikeouts also tops Kaipat (27), Lions' Davie Matagolai (21), Jonathan Cabrera (17), Villagomez (17), and Enforcers' Lofton Edward (16).

Hustlers' Brian Camacho (2-0) has allowed 10 earned runs through 29 innings off 24 hits for an ERA of 2.41. He leads Nakamura (3.15 ERA), Fielders' Nathan Guerrero (4.42 ERA), and Regis (5.31 ERA).

Camacho's 46 strikeouts also leads Regis (33) and Guerrero (32).

PACQUIAO

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the showdown—projected to be held in Nov-ember—to the spanking-new Arena Mexico.

The indoor Arena has a maximum capacity of 22,300 although it can only accommodate 16,500 when reconfigured for a boxing event.

In their first fight in 2004, Marquez survived three first-round knockdowns to salvage a draw with Pacquiao, who won the return bout in 2008 by split decision on the strength of a third-round knockdown.

Last November, Pacquiao repeated over Marquez by major-ity decision.

Beltran believes that Mexico, the boxing fans, and Marquez deserve the final battle with Pacquiao, who is well-loved in the country despite his tag as "Mexican assassin."

RBC

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basketball competitions.

Notably, RBC's U18 Saipan 1 (U25) and Saipan 2 (U18) teams will be featured in next week's caging.

The teams are gearing up for its appearance in the upcoming Micronesian Basketball Tournament, scheduled for May 21.

In addition, proceeds raised from next week's event will go toward RBC's U14 squads trip to Manila, Philippines where they will appear in the Pacific Rim Manila Goodwill Tournament this coming July

Although they are on the greener end of the lower division, some of these players may be seen competing in the U18 division as well.

The RBC is still looking for potential banner sponsors who would like to offer their support.

For more information, contact Joe Diaz at 285-4141 or email joediaz41@gmail.com.

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Jets survive Red Sox in Juniors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Shipping Company Jets almost let the Bank of Saipan-Red Sox off the hook, but hung on for a 9-8 win in Thursday's Saipan Little League Baseball Junior Division matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win evened the Jets' win-loss card to 4-4, while the Red Sox fell to 4-3.

In other Junior League results, the Natibu Sports Association-Tanapag Falcons (4-3) and the Hawaiya Technologies, Inc. Ol'Aces both notched wins over the DYS-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Rep. Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions. The former downed the pride, 13-1, on Tuesday, while the latter pounced on them, 20-2, in five innings last Sunday.

In addition, IT&E Fielders (6-4) were batting with two runners on and zero outs in the third inning of Thursday's Big Division night match against the Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (7-2), trailing, 1-2, when heavy rainfall spoiled the evening. The game will be continued at a later date.

And finally, fueled with a little revenge, the Senior Division San Roque D-9ers (1-9) broke into the win column after overcoming the DPS-Dare Program-Enforcers (2-6), 11-5, last Saturday after just being hemmed up by the Enforcers, 6-3, back on Thursday, April 12.

JUNIOR DIVISION
Jets 9, Red Sox 8

Jets pitcher Franco Nakamura held the Red Sox to a 9-2 margin before exceeding his pitch limit with two outs in the sixth inning.

The Jets built its lead from an RBI single by Jason Villagomez in the first inning, a pair of RBI doubles by Nakamura and Ben Maratita in the third inning, while a late breakdown on the mound by its opponents allowed four runs to the plate in the fifth. The Jets added two more runs in the sixth inning off an error and an RBI base rip by K.J. Deleon Guerrero.

With the Jets ace off the mound, the Red Sox mustered a last-ditch rally and pulled within a run off three hits mixed with patience at the plate and some infield blunders with runners on the path.

Then a questionable suicide steal was called by the Red Sox staff, which resulted in its lead-off man, Jhace Palacios, getting nailed out at the plate in a dramatic heartbreaking loss for the Red Sox. The team decided to take the bat out of Nathan

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Jets' K.J. Deleon Guerrero stares down an incoming pitch from a Red Sox pitcher in their Junior Division matchup last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Two-way tie in Juniors batting crown

» Lieto leads Seniors, Nakamura tops Big League

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Shipping Company-Jets' K.J. Deleon Guerrero and Hawaiya Technologies, Inc.-Ol'Aces' Mike Muna are currently neck-and-neck in the race for the Junior Division batting crown, while Natibu Sports Association-Tanapag Falcons' Francisco Lieto and Docomo Pacific-Ol'Aces' Harry Nakamura are the current leaders in their respective Senior and Big divisions.

Ol'Aces' Keoni Lizama, seen here in a file photo, is the current Big League leader in home runs with three.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Deleon Guerrero has accrued 12 hits in 22 at bats for a 0.600 batting average, while Muna is on an equal pace, batting 9-for-15.

The pair leads IT&E Fielders' Kainoa Wanket (11-for-19/0.579), Ol'Aces' Jessie Brel (11-for-22/0.500), Jets' Franco Nakamura (11-for-23/0.478), DPS Dare Program Leep Enforcers' Caleb Takao (10-for-21/0.476), Jets' Peterson Rengiil (7-for-15/0.467), Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Roke Tenorio (9-for-20/0.450), Jets' Ben Maratita (9-for-20/0.450), and Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera (10-for-23/0.435). Two others are swinging at 0.400 or better.

Muna and Wanket lead the league with eight RBIs apiece with Brel (7), Ol'Aces' Verlance Secharmidal (6), T.J. Dela Cruz, (6) and Maratita (6) close behind.

Nakamura's two home runs leads the category ahead of Fielders' Jonathan Camacho, and Fielders' Anthony Agulto and Takao.

Nakamura, Tenorio, Secharmidal, and Enforcers' Darrion Jones all have three triples under their belts.

Muna's four doubles tops the field, while Brel has crossed the plate a league-best 17 times. He leads Muna (14), Deleon Guerrero (12), and Wanket (12) with three others tied at 11.

Deleon Guerrero, meanwhile, is standing out in a talented group of Senior hitters. He is pacing Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera-Hunters' Ste-

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RBC April Fool's Tournament next weekend

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Rollers Basketball Club is holding its April Fool's 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament starting on April 27 at the Garapan Basketball Court. Games will run from 4:30pm through 9pm.

This is a all-out, full court double-elimination tournament played under two 16-minute halves. The competition will be split into two divisions—U18 and U25—and the entrance fee is $50 per team.

There are already four U18 teams expected to suit up and five U25 squads with slots still available. Trophies will be awarded to the Top 2 teams of each division.

In addition to promoting a healthy proactive lifestyle, the tournament also serves as good practice for some upcoming

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Pacquiao may clash with Marquez a fourth time

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A fourth installment of the heralded Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez face-off is in the offing. And, chances are, it will no longer be staged in Las-Vegas but in Marquez's turf—Mexico City.

Fernando Beltran of Zanfer Promotions, which manages Marquez, told Miguel Rivera of BoxingScene.com Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) that his group has initiated discussions with Pacquiao's representatives and these "have gone well."

"Having (the fight in Mexico) is not being viewed as a bad thing," said Beltran. "There are many benefits to having the Pacquiao fight made there."

Beltran is said to be so enamored with Pacquiao-Marquez IV that he has vowed to bring

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Pacquiao